



# *the* KUDOS DIGEST

COLLABORATION | INNOVATION  
COMPASSION | TRUSTWORTHY | RESPECT

## Collaboration • Respect

I am a new employee and **Janet Minich** (ASD) has been a great mentor for me as well as an excellent team player. I have learned a lot in the few weeks that I have been here and appreciate her constant support and encouragement, not only towards me but most every staff member she sees.

*Ann-Marie Breese*  
*WoodsEdge Learning Center*

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## Respect

I want to give a HUGE shout out to everyone in the **Print Center** for all of their great work and for putting up with me. I recently had a big, difficult order and they were so patient with me. I truly appreciate their patience and understanding as I continue to learn my job, and especially, the superb quality of work that they do. The Print Center is fantastic!

*Mandi Smith*  
*EFE*

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## Collaboration • Innovation

Candi Gajdos-Drake from the MIBLSI Team at the Ottawa Area ISD had a last minute training materials request for our KRESA Print Center and the team, **John Hendrix, Gary Hubbard, Carol Craft, and Kelly Speck** (KRESA Print Center) came through in the clutch! Candi knew it might not have been possible and was ready to go out and possibly pay extra dollars for expedited services, but Carol said, "I will do my best to print and ship today or tomorrow". The team came through for Candi and how did she feel about it? She stated, "Your team is simply amazing! I am indebted to you all!" Now that's service! Thank you Print Center Team!

*Tom Zahrt  
HR/Service Center*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

We recently held a work shop for our MIBLSI project Promoting Adolescent Reading Success that took up an entire week at KRESA. In mid-August 60 middle school teachers invaded KRESA. Both **Tara Kane and Barb Smalla** (Human Resources/Reception) displayed grace, patience and professionalism throughout the entire week as they not only had to answer phones and greet guests during times of elevated noise volume, but also was attentive to the needs of our teachers and the MIBLSI staff. Major kudos to you, Tara and Barb, for everything you did for us the week of August 15 and again on August 26!! Your kindness toward our project staff and teachers is greatly appreciated, and we couldn't have better people than you two as the first face of KRESA.

*Barb Ver Sluis, John Vail, Soraya Coccimiglio, Kim St. Martin  
Service Center/IC/MIBLSI*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

During our recent week-long workshop at KRESA for our MIBLSI project Promoting Adolescent Reading Success, we had one afternoon where there needed to be a quick turn-around to prepare the conference rooms we were using for the evening KRESA Board Meeting. **Nichole Phillips** (Facilities/Custodial) did an excellent job communicating with us and the evening custodial staff, **Chris Grassner** (Facilities/Custodial), about the details of this turn-around. As soon as our teachers left for the day, Chris was in there taking down tables, moving tables, putting away chairs, completely reorganizing everything in the conference room to make it Board Meeting friendly. When we returned on Friday morning, we were amazed to see that she, along with **Barb Sunnock** (Facilities/Custodial), had put the room set-up right back to where it was for our workshop. Needless to say, our custodial staff rocks!!

*Barb Ver Sluis, John Vail, Soraya Coccimiglio, Kim St. Martin  
Service Center/IC/MIBLSI*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

We ran into various technical difficulties at our recent week-long Promoting Adolescent Reading Success workshop here at KRESA. We want to give **Jennifer Lim** (SW MiTech) a huge shout-out for being completely available to us. Without hesitation, she responded to every call for help, analyzed and figured out our technical needs, and was able to successfully get us through the week. Jen went above and beyond for us to make sure our teachers and trainer had the technology they needed to complete the work they had in front of them. And she did this with the best attitude and professionalism. We are grateful for everything Jen did for our project that week! Thank you, Jen!!

*Barb Ver Sluis, John Vail, Soraya Coccimiglio, Kim St. Martin  
Service Center/IC/MIBLSI*

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## Compassion • Respect

The first week back to school can be overwhelming and exhausting. It can feel like your tank is half empty before the students even show up. **Adam Danapilis** (Young Adult Program) created the most uplifting, productive, and energizing first week back that has set an incredible tone for the rest of the year. From meaningful and fun ice-breakers with a message to heartfelt poems and sentiments, Adam carefully planned a truly worthwhile and heartfelt four days. I appreciate his commitment to developing a staff that radiates Kalamazoo RESA's core values and his passion for developing us so that we can continue to work towards incredible student outcomes.

*Karen Rangler  
Young Adult Program*

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## Collaboration

A huge thank you to **Tom Zahrt** (Service Center) and **Deb Vliek** (Service Center) for assisting with some last minute requests for board meeting information! I appreciate both of you understanding the need and working as a team to respond so quickly.

*Karen Carlisle  
YOU*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion

Thank you, **Adam Danapilis** (Young Adult Program), for your assistance in our Education ReConnection program. Our new program is doing well and I appreciate all of your help, guidance and feedback!

*Karen Carlisle  
YOU*

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## Collaboration

**Bryan Zocher** (Education for the Arts) assisted me with a grant by providing information and helpful tips. I appreciate him sharing his expertise and his quick response to my questions. Thanks Bryan!

*Karen Carlisle*  
YOU

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