



# *the* KUDOS DIGEST

COLLABORATION | INNOVATION  
COMPASSION | TRUSTWORTHY | RESPECT

## Collaboration • Innovation

**Jennifer Lim** (MiTech) was called out to CLC for an internet issue and had to go back and forth several times as this also turned into a printer issue. Technology, gotta love it! Jennifer was very thorough and helpful as she worked with us to quickly remedy our situation. Thank you Jen!

*Meadow Nuyen*  
*Christian Life Center / Head Start #4*

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## Innovation • Respect

A big KUDOS to **Jeni Opel** (Human Resources) and her handling of this year's open enrollment process for making sure we all select the right insurances for our personal needs! Jeni not only continues to improve the process each year to make it easier for employees and more efficient for HR. In addition, Jeni demonstrates RESPECT for each and every one of us as she handles all of our last minute questions with grace and empathy. Thanks Jeni!

*Tom Zahrt*  
*Human Resources / Service Center*

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## Collaboration • Innovation

Here's a big KUDOS to **Melinda Nelson** (Human Resources) who did a fantastic job preparing and gathering information for our audit from the Michigan Department of Education's Technical Assistance Partners. All of our teachers qualifications were reviewed by the department to ensure they are "Highly Qualified" for their teaching assignment. We passed the audit with flying colors due to great cooperation between our wonderful teachers and Melinda in HR.

The audit was a great learning experience for Melinda and myself and as life long learners, we really appreciated the experience! A shout out to the special education support staff who assisted the audit by providing accurate information and also to the teachers who promptly supplied us their needed documentation.

*Tom Zahrt*

*Human Resources / Service Center*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Respect

This week, I volunteered for a morning for the MiCareer Quest event at the Expo Center. Busload after busload of 8th grade students arrived, excited to be with their friends and unsure about what was going to happen.

I volunteered in one small area of the event, and here's what I saw happen:

- Students petting baby goats and learning about agriculture careers
- Students using a saw to cut through a skull, learning about engineering careers
- Students putting on the very heavy jacket worn by EMTS who work with the SWAT team
- And adults excited about their work inviting students to learn more.

I wished I were in 8th grade again (well, except for the perm and acne).

An event of that scale required so many people, from the businesses who sent staff and fun activities, to individual community members volunteering to direct students, to our **EFE and KRESA teams** who planned and organized and DELIVERED. Thank you to all who made great things happen for my 8th grader that day, and all of our 8th grade students in the county.

*Carly Wiggins*

*MiCase / Service Center*

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## Collaboration

A huge thank you to **Kathleen Robertson** (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) for taking time out of her weekend to come to PCHS musical "Guys & Dolls" to observe me and give me feedback. She is always willing to give her time up to help someone else. Thank you!!!!!!

*Johanna Wyman*

*Deaf and Hard of Hearing / Portage Central High School*

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## Collaboration

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! Wow! Over 5,000 students attended the two day MiCareerQuest field trip and over 900 parents and students attended the EFA/EFE/EMC evening open house last week.

So many of the KRESA family stepped in to help that it would be impossible to name each one. **EVERYONE in REMC and the Maintenance department** went above and beyond to help....**Amy Simmons** (REMC) you are AMAZING! **Technology Services** came and helped with tech issues and then moved tables and helped people unload equipment. **Communications and Graphic Artists** made everything look AWESOME and helped get the word out. **Volunteers from many departments** came to help usher students.

Special thanks to **Stan Hoekstra** (Facilities) who helped with everything from loading/unloading to purchasing 100's of cases of water, but especially for braving the freezing cold to help move busses in and out. Stan, you are WONDERFUL!!

All of the **KRESA Education for the Arts, Education for Employment and Early/Middle College** staff worked tirelessly on hard concrete floors for several days. You are all OUTSTANDING!!

KRESA truly is a TEAM and we can't thank you all enough for the long hours and dedication you showed to us and the students of Kalamazoo County. We are grateful and blessed to work with such awesome people!

*Jason Luke, Kathy Spackman*

*EFE / Service Center*

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## Collaboration • Respect

I was off site with a customer using a password SW MiTech had set up. The password wasn't working. I called **Lin Dyga** (SW MiTech) and she reset the password for me right then, saving me a trip back to the Service Center and then back again.

A big thanks to Lin for resolving my issue so quickly. Now my customer is happy, and I'm a happy SWMITech customer.

*Carly Wiggins*  
*MiCase / Service Center*

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## Collaboration

I was asked to bring in my teaching certificate to be notarized. When I went in I asked **Melinda Nelson** (Human Resources) if there was a cost, she replied, "Kalamazoo RESA does this as a benefit for the employees because we know that it's hard for you to have extra time to get errands like this done". I was so thankful that she took the time to help me but also, that Kalamazoo RESA values us as employees enough to offer the service for free. Thank You!

*Jennifer Snead*  
*St Joe / Head Start #2*

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