

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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Department of Human Services honors employees for public service

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services recognized 286 employees this week for their public service. Employees were honored for reaching milestone employment anniversaries.

The department employs 2,162 people statewide. About 75 percent of them work at the eight regional human service centers, the North Dakota State Hospital in Jamestown, or the Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton providing behavioral health, residential services, program management, and support services for people with developmental disabilities, and other human services directly or through contracts and collaboration with the counties and other partner agencies.

“Each Department of Human Services employee contributes in an important way to the health, well-being, and quality of life of thousands of North Dakotans who are vulnerable, and they deserve our gratitude and recognition,” said department Executive Director Chris Jones. “They assist clients including infants and older children, individuals who are frail and elderly, people with disabilities, and others with chronic diseases including addiction, and they work with partner organizations to share training and resources and to support quality services.”

The employees honored are identified by their work location and years of service.

Bismarck employees honored

Employees recognized for **40 years of service** were Becky Bles, Information Technology Services (ITS); and Joann Riehl, West Central Human Service Center (WCHSC).

Thirty years of service honorees included: Dianne Brendel, ITS; James Fischer, WCHSC; Sue Mock, WCHSC; and **25 years of service** honorees were Karalee Adam, ITS; Margaret Elkin, Child Support; Roger Larson, WCHSC; Mary Magrum, WCHSC; Barb Reiersen, Child Support; Lauren Sauer, Children and Family Services; and Patty Wanner, Vocational Rehabilitation.

Twenty years of service recognition recipients included: Marlys Baker, Children and Family Services; Mike Bossert, Child Support; Kelly Klein, ITS; Jocelyn Martin, Disability Determination Services (DDS); Shannon Nieuwsma, WCHSC; Charlene Olsen, Fiscal; Sheri Seil, DDS; Warren Sickler, ITS; Traci Schlag, WCHSC; Thomas Solberg, Executive Office; and Lisa Stymeist, WCHSC.

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Those honored for **15 years of service** included: Peggy Christman, Human Resources; Robert Hague, Aging Services; Lisa Hedstrom, Economic Assistance; Jacqueline Lelm, WCHSC; Kristin Love, WCHSC; Heidi Mercil, Fiscal; Brant Moch, ITS; Julie Schwarz, Fiscal; Brianne Skachenko, Developmental Disabilities; and Karmen Svihovec, ITS. **Ten years of service** award recipients included Michelle Adams, ITS; Wendy Connelly, DDS; Benita Eberts, Fiscal; Laura Gitter, WCHSC; Rodney Hair, Behavioral Health Division; Shanna Herron, Child Support; Paula Huber, WCHSC; Jodi Hulm, Medical Services; Joshua Kadrmaz, ITS; Sandra Kuntz, Economic Assistance; Sheri Lewis, ITS; Linda Mertz, Fiscal; Laurie Santangelo, Medical Services; Becki Schulz, Child Support; Heidi Selby, WCHSC; Diane Sundby, Aging Services; and Nina Weber, WCHSC.

Five years of service honorees who work in Bismarck included: Tory Brabandt, ITS; Valerie Czosnek, Child Support; Justin Decoteau, ITS; Darcea Duerre, WCHSC; Brandace Heisler, WCHSC; Julie Huwe, Behavioral Health Division; Heather Ibach, WCHSC; Lyndon Jahner, Fiscal; Amy Jangula Johnson, Fiscal; Lori Johnson-Walker, WCHSC; Lindy Kadrmaz, ITS; Katie Lee, WCHSC; Joanna Lonski, Legal; Amber Myhre, WCHSC; Samantha O'Brien, Economic Assistance; Katherine Paul, WCHSC; Kayla Rahrach, Fiscal; Melissa Robinson, Child Support; Sarah Schaaf, Medical Services; Katherine Schafer, WCHSC; Jeffery Scholl, WCHSC; Monica Slater, Economic Assistance; Rebecca Volk, WCHSC; Raymond Weichel, Fiscal; Dean Weigum, WCHSC; and Tina Weiss, WCHSC.

Devils Lake employees honored

In the Devils Lake region, the department recognized **30 years of service** recipient Lisa Crandall; **25 years of service** recipient Alice Winnegge; and **20 years of service** recipients Amy Hultgren and Wendy Olson. Dorothy Moen and Michael Shock were recognized for **10 years of service**, and Becky Boe, Shannon Drury, Marci Kligmann and Sarah Senger were recognized for **five years of service**. All are employed by Lake Region Human Service Center (LRHSC) except for Drury who works at the department's local child support office.

Dickinson employees honored

In the Dickinson region, the department honored Russell Fast of Badlands Human Service Center (BLHSC) for **25 years of service**. Kristina Brown, Vocational Rehabilitation; Dawn Schank, BLHSC; and Jennifer Urlacher, BLHSC were recognized for **five years of service**.

Fargo employees recognized

The department recognized these employees in the Fargo region for **30 years of service**: Brenda Krueger, Child Support and Edward Larson, Southeast Human Service Center (SEHSC). Melissa Becker and Nancy Lambrecht were recognized for **25 years of service**, and Lori Monson of Child Support was honored for **20 years of service**. **Fifteen years of service** honorees included James Christensen, SEHSC; Barbara Dodgson and Jill Shoman, Child Support; and Usha Singh and Virginia Smith, SEHSC.

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Employees with **10 years of service** were Ann Bachmeier, Donna Bosh, Laura Fischer, Marlys Forness, Maggie Kneip, Lisa Rorvig and Janelle Sanoski of SEHSC. Staff members recognized for **five years of service** included Lacey Anderson, SEHSC; Antonia Berning, SEHSC; Denae Burkhardt, SEHSC; Nicole Cross-Hillman, SEHSC; Jared Ferguson, Vocational Rehabilitation; Andrea Klobuchar, SEHSC; and Laura Olson, SEHSC.

Grafton employees honored

The Department of Human Services recognized 56 Life Skills and Transition Center employees. **Forty years of service** honorees included Lori Arin, Eileen Demers, Gloria Gebur, Pam Halliday, Mary Jaster, and Mary Beth Wilson; **35 years of service** honorees were Nancy Erickson, Colleen Halvorson, Shari Heck, Daniel Kohler, Denise Lien, Joann Lizakowski, Audrey Mercil, Bradley Osowski, Kevin Peterson, and Allan Szklarski; and **30 years of service** award recipients included Robert Beavers, Tad Byzewski, Renee Fritel, Veann Green, Jennifer Hooey, and Kathy Markel.

Employees recognized for **25 years of service** were Mardell Niswonger, Zita Simon, and Ann Sveen; and **20 years of service** recipients were Marilyn Belisle, Dennis Daley and Tami White.

Fifteen year honorees included Ella Blackcloud, Jolayne Braaten, Leticia Castillo, Janet Foerster, Roxann Johnson, Thomas Moeri, David Puppe and Christine Roesler; and **10 years of service** recipients were Kathy Ferguson, Beth Fraser, Lance Heck, Melissa Hildebrandt, Karena Holm, Clayton Klimek, Cahla Lafontaine, Lynn Martinez, George Midboe, Lorraine Risky, Amber Szklarski and Maria Trevino.

LSTC employees receiving **five years of service** recognition were Brittany Barney, Jessica Helland, Crystal Henderson, Vance Hylden, Nancelyn Lizakowski, Kimberley Odegaard, Ramona Sticha and Stacey Wasylow.

Grand Forks employees recognized

In the Grand Forks region, the department recognized Mary Jo Nordine of Child Support for **35 years of service** and Karen Hillman of Northeast Human Service Center (NEHSC) for **30 years of service**. **Twenty five years of service** recipients included Jerry Severson, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR); and Beverly Snyder and Patricia Soli of NEHSC. **Twenty years of service** honorees included Janet Burns, Ron Peck and Randall Slavens of NEHSC, and **15 years of service** honorees included Desiree Gagner-Tjellesen, NEHSC; Constance Hodny, Child Support; Julie Kalgard, NEHSC; Brenda Satrom, VR; Julie Wunderlich, Child Support; and V. Desarae Zaharia, NEHSC.

These employees were recognized for **10 years of service**: Nancy Bina, Child Support; Elizabeth Borgen, Sheila Compeau, Guadalupe Crawford, and Janelle Hapka, NEHSC; Shelly Meyer, Child Support; and Rebecca Savaloja, NEHSC. Those recognized for **five years of service** include Eva Bostyan, Cheryl Carlson, Beven Casavant, Tanya Jeanotte, Dawn Larson and Julie Ludwig all of NEHSC, and Lonnie Lloyd of Child Support.

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Jamestown employees recognized

These employees in the Jamestown region were recognized for **40 years of service**: Karla Bachmeier, North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH); Perry Finck, NDSH; and Bernice Monson, Fiscal. Others honored included **35 years of service** honorees Tammy Gumke and Jody Larson, NDSH; **30 years of service** honorees Cynthia Clemens, NDSH; Brenda Munson, NDSH; Leann Pollert, South Central Human Service Center (SCHSC); Jane Price, NDSH; Leah Schulz, NDSH; and Daniel Smith, SCHSC.

Emmy Opskar of NDSH celebrated **25 years of service**, and Donna Enzminger, Tyra Heinert, Jason Larson, Marilyn Slaughter, and Dale Soleim of the NDSH were recognized for **20 years of service**.

Fifteen years of service recipients included: Danny Johnson, Statewide Human Service Centers; Gail Riedinger, SCHSC; Karen Stroh, NDSH; Renee Woehl, SCHSC; and Ed Yabut, NDSH. **Ten years of service** honorees included: Carrie Christianson, NDSH; Kari Dewald, NDSH; Tally Guthmiller, NDSH; Lori Hoff, NDSH; Kimberly Kapp, NDSH; Sheena Lauf, NDSH; Jennifer Lindsey, SCHSC; Paul Marzolf, NDSH; Susan McDowell, NDSH; Diana Mittleider, NDSH; Barbara Nuanes, NDSH; Courtney Reinarts-Workman, SCHSC; Jodi Ronningen, NDSH; Dawn Salinas, NDSH; and Karen Soma, NDSH.

These employees were recognized for **five years of service**: Trina Ammon, SCHSC; Cassandra Buchanan, SCHSC; Ashley Eagleson, NDSH; Wendy Falter, NDSH; Jessica Fettig, NDSH; Tanner Leslie, NDSH; Stacy Lunzman, NDSH; Sandy Maenza, NDSH; Lenore Pausig, NDSH; Eugene (Gene) Ringuette, NDSH; Erica Rode, NDSH; Chase Rost, NDSH; Tom Schielke, NDSH; Jodi Steffen, NDSH; and Terry Weippert, NDSH.

Minot employees recognized

Human Services officials recognized Laurie Bruce and Kimberly Fiskum of North Central Human Service Center (NCHSC) in Minot for **25 years of service**, and Celeste Knudsen, Tracey Olson and Anna Winters-Jones of NCHSC for **20 years of service**. Bonnie Schriock, NCHSC, received a **15 years of service** recognition and **10 years of service** honorees included Jamie Goulet, Child Support; Brietta Kidney, NCHSC; and Kari Stiel of Child Support. Those recognized for **five years of service** were Melanie Beeter, NCHSC; Allyson Berner, Vocational Rehabilitation; Betty Haller, NCHSC; and Amber Twogood, NCHSC.

Williston employees recognized

The Department of Human Services recognized Tammy Booke of Northwest Human Service Center (NWHSC) in Minot and Robyn Soiseth, Vocational Rehabilitation, for **25 years of service**. **Twenty years of service** honorees included Jaret Cvancara and Kristy Green of NWHSC. Heidi Ryen of the Child Support unit was recognized for **15 years of service**. Charlotte Ferrell of NWHSC received her **10 years of service** recognition, and Jennie Bell, NWHSC, was recognized for **five years of service**.

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