

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Governor congratulates Life Skills and Transition Center on accreditation

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Jack Dalrymple congratulated staff of the Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) in Grafton for receiving a four-year accreditation from the national Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL).

Superintendent Susan Foerster said that to her knowledge, the center is the only institution in the country to be granted accreditation under the new CQL standards. The center in Grafton first earned accreditation in 1989.

The CQL accreditation team visited the campus in December 2015 and spoke to people served by the center, their parents and guardians, advocates, community leaders, agency representatives, service providers, and staff members, and also observed center staff at work.

Reviewers compared their observations against CQL standards, which focus on person-centered care, individual outcomes, community integration, and ongoing quality improvement. Reviewers briefed LSTC staff and people receiving supports from the agency on CQL's decision to grant a four-year accreditation.

“This is such an honor, and it is due to the integrity, dedication, and good work of staff that the center continues to meet CQL standards,” Foerster said.

The comprehensive support agency provides residential services and supports to 63 adults and 21 youth on the campus and 12 people residing in off-campus apartments. The center also provides vocational services and specialized outreach services, including crisis evaluation and consultation, to meet the unique needs and personal goals of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

The LSTC also leads a Transition Task Force to help people move into appropriate community living situations and also works to prevent admissions by building community capacity and offering behavioral consultation and other supportive services. The center provides residential services to people with significant health needs and serves as a safety net for people whose needs exceed available community resources. The LSTC employs about 370 people.

CQL is an accrediting organization that provides leadership to organizations and communities on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, people with mental illness, and older adults.

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