



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: February 7, 2018

CONTACT
Darcy Dwyer
218-822-7025
Darcy.Dwyer@crowwing.us

Crow Wing County Employees Honored for Excellence

Crow Wing County employees celebrated their 4th year of excellence awards, to recognize staff who are delivering excellence in their performance throughout Crow Wing County. There were 72 Crow Wing County employees nominated for Excellence Awards for their extraordinary contributions in 2017.

The nominees were voted on by their peers with 30 employees being honored as winners in 6 categories of Individual Performance, Group performance, Innovation, Leadership, Customer Service and Community Contribution. The 2017 Crow Wing County Excellence Award Winners are:

Anne Soberg-Individual Performance-Assistant County Attorney. Anne works in the area of juvenile delinquency and treats each case with an extreme amount of care, compassion and professionalism. Anne sees the kids as individuals with unique issues. She looks at each case from all perspectives and examines what area would be the most beneficial. Anne takes the time to follow through with all of the different agencies in order to come up with the best plan for each child.

IT Team-Matt Badger, Marcus Cadena, Lynn Clasen, Melissa Larson, Brian Olson, Nate Rose, Jay Sikkink, Jason Walkowiak, Carey Yeager-Group Performance: The Information Technology Department is the communications hub for all of Crow Wing County. Whether it's desktops, laptops, mobile devices, applications, servers, networks, databases or cybersecurity the team keeps Crow Wing County humming. They are responsible for phones, printers, projectors, GIS, software, fiber cables, websites, and the constant demand to keep up with the latest technology. The group logs over 5,000 work orders a year. In 2017 they started work on the remodel of the Law Enforcement Center to move every piece of equipment and relocate with no disruption in the highly sensitive communications center.

Randi Sheflo-Innovation: Legal Assistant. In 2016 the County Attorney's office began conversations with the IT department to start using an electronic storage tool to be integrated with their Lens software. Randi adapted quickly and worked closely with the developer, vendors, office staff, IT project managers and software managers to trouble shoot the software and get the program implemented into the office. She spent extra time on weekends and evenings in order for the project to move forward. Her ability to continue her work as a legal assistant and take on this project helped make a smooth transition for staff and the entire workflow of the office.

Six Sigma-Nick Mielke, Tami Lueck, Rachel Grimes-Leadership: Nick is the Business Manager at the Highway Department. Tami is the Programs Manager for Adult Services at Community Services. Rachel is the Business Manager at Community Services. The trio has received additional statistical, project management and customer service focused training to help better manage large projects throughout Crow Wing County. The team is leading the continuous

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

improvement initiative which uses tools and methods to empower employees and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services for Crow Wing County.

Janine LePage-Customer Service: Assistant County Attorney. Janine has been practicing child protection cases for over 20 years. In the past year she began processing domestic violence cases. She puts her energy and passion and excellent legal skills into all her cases on a daily basis. In many of her cases the victims have suffered significant violence. Janine works closely with all victim's organizations and victims to ensure the victim understands the process, status of the case and has an input into the proceedings. Janine regularly meets with victims after hours, on weekends and even on holidays to deliver exceptional service and support to her clients.

Dive Team-Nick Haglin, Adam Johnson, Tom Mattsen, Mike Hawkins, Mark Cross, Josh Duda, Mark Johnson, Kelli Mankowski, Mike Mandkowski, Todd Matthies, Bill Mattson, Joshua Marcum, Mark McDonald, Ken Oftendahl, Vince Pikula-Community Contribution: The Crow Wing County Dive team is made up entirely of volunteers. The dive team responds to calls in all types of weather and can mean the difference of life and death. They train tirelessly and supply all of their own equipment. Boat and Water Sergeant DJ Downie says, "Until you have a loved one who is at the bottom of the lake, you can't really appreciate the job this team does. We have a lot of success in the quick body recoveries and people think that is the norm. It is not. It takes a special person to jump into a lake and go to the bottom and bring someone up."

The Excellence awards reinforce the mission of Crow Wing County to Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

###