



County Commissioners

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JDCAP 2018 Rookie Staff Person of the Year Nomination

Monica Black

Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center
Years Employed: 1 year, 3 months
Part-Time Youth Care Worker – P.U.L.S.E.

The Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center is proud to nominate Monica Black as the JDCAP Rookie Staff Person of the Year. Monica has worked in the P.U.L.S.E. Program at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center for one year and three months. Since the first day of Monica's employment, she has demonstrated a consistent desire to learn and grow as a Youth Care Worker. She frequently asks questions and wants feedback from her supervisors in order to improve her skills. If she is faced with a situation that she doesn't think went well, she will ask to process it with her colleagues and supervisors in order to identify alternative solutions.

Monica exemplifies the phrase "team player". There is no other staff member more willing to help out her colleagues, supervisors, and the program as a whole. She will help her colleagues prepare for their groups or set up for the shift. If she notices that something needs done, she will simply just do it without being asked. At the end of her shift, she takes it upon herself to not only clean up her group area, but her colleagues' groups. She also never leaves a shift without walking through the whole program and making sure everything is in order. Once she has completed all of her daily tasks, she always comes to her supervisors for additional tasks and is willing to help out wherever she is needed. Over the past six months, the program has gone through periods without a clerical specialist and supervisor. Monica has volunteered to help with various duties that are not part of her job description. She has helped with filing, organizing transportation information, writing progress reports, scoring assessments, and various other tasks.

Monica has the unique ability to make everyone she meets feel instantly comfortable. She uses her friendly demeanor, energetic attitude, and her humor to interact with the participants on a daily basis. If a participant is in a bad mood, she will use her humor and help make the participant feel better. If a participant is sitting alone or struggling to fit in, Monica will invite him/her to play a game. If the group appears bored or no one is engaging, she will have everyone get involved in a teambuilding activity. Monica has a way of adapting to the needs of the participants and the program.

One of Monica's biggest strengths is her creativity when developing psychoeducational groups and activities for the participants. She takes great pride in this responsibility and is always coming up with new and creative ways to teach a concept. In addition to the psychoeducational groups that she facilitates, she is also trained in various evidence-based groups including Aggression Replacement Training, Forward Thinking, Prepare, Alternatives, and Girls Circle.

Monica starts every shift with an upbeat and positive attitude. This attitude is contagious to her coworkers. She has a way of bringing the team together, as well as motivating her colleagues that are struggling. She always looks at someone's strengths instead of their deficits and focuses her efforts on continuing to build those strengths. Since the start of her employment, Monica has graduated from Millersville University with her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. This fall, she is starting her Masters of Social Work program and will be interning with the P.U.L.S.E. Program. Thank you for considering Monica Black as the 2018 JDCAP Rookie Staff Person of the Year.

Respectfully Submitted by Nicole Katherman, P.U.L.S.E. Program Director (717-209-3330)

