

Achievement in the Workplace Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Achievement in the Workplace Award will be presented to a person who receives services from an InterHab member and who has made significant accomplishments in his or her workplace. (e.g. community job, workshop job and/or volunteer job)

NOMINEE: Breanna Babcock
ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.

Include a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- What is this person's job?
- What path did this person take to arrive at the job he or she currently has?
- What is this person's significant accomplishments in his or her workplace?
- What supports did this person have in accomplishing his or her goals?
- Are there other workplace goals this person is working on reaching?
- Provide a biographical sketch of this person.
- Additional information.

NOMINATION NARRATIVE:

Breanna Babcock entered into Starkey's Supported Employment Program right in the middle of the pandemic. She was fresh out of Project Search, where she interned at a hospital in environmental services, in an office where she made copies and at a retail carpet store where she helped with stocking. While she appreciated the experience she received from these internships, Breanna has always had the same vocational objective and that was to work with children. She's been drawn to children her whole life and has developed quite a good reputation within her family structure as the "go-to" babysitter.

Breanna knew she needed more than a good reputation within her family to get her "dream job" at a daycare center but didn't quite know where or how to make her goal come to fruition but she knew that if she worked with children, she would be happy.

While working with the SE team on the steps to become a daycare attendant or teacher, she was faced with the understanding that she would need to take and pass several courses to be considered eligible to even be interviewed for a position in a daycare center. This was a daunting thought for Breanna. She even hesitated for a moment because school has always been a challenge but then realized that if she truly wants to succeed in this field, now is the time! Breanna understood that she has the support of the SE team to help her but that she needed to do the hard work. It was through her hard work and dedication to this goal that Breanna made her dream come true.

Breanna took and passed the 18 credit hours of Foundations for Safe and Healthy Early Care Facilities Modules through Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO). She received her Certificate of Completion on April 21, 2022. This training encompassed 11 sections that included child development, abuse and neglect, emergency response to food and other allergic reactions, SIDS prevention & other safe sleep practices, administering medicine to children, and other emergency and safety courses. Breanna worked with the SE team to make accommodations such as using the reader feature so that she can hear the words as she is reading them. Breanna also started a binder with all of the handouts for each section so that she can refer back to a section, if needed.

In addition to the KCCTO course, Breanna also took and passed the American Heart Association Emergency Care Training for Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED/Choking and Adult & Pediatric First Aid/Safety course *on her own*. This was a HUGE feat for Breanna. Not a normally outgoing person, Breanna knew that this course was the last item on her list in order to be a good candidate for her dream job. Breanna was so proud of herself! This success allowed Breanna to gain much needed confidence going into interviews.

Breanna received an interview and was offered a job at the first daycare at which she applied! Unfortunately, this was not meant to be, as the offer was pulled once the daycare realized that their enrollment numbers didn't warrant the position. Disappointed but not deterred, Breanna forged ahead with the support of the SE team. She applied for and went on a few more interviews before the right situation came in the form of an offer from Kidz Clubhouse to be their one and only Assistant to the Lead Teachers. She began there on July 25, 2022.

Sharde Nelson, owner and director, says that Breanna is a “rock star” and could tell that Breanna was a keeper during her interview. Breanna interacted with the children while on a tour of their facilities and was smiling the entire time. Mrs. Nelson said that you could see that the kid’s energy gave Breanna extra energy and a match was made!

Not one to rest on her first goal, Breanna continues to impress by adding more goals to her list for her to crush. Breanna was shy but now she is quietly confident because she has mastered so many new skills. She has taken and passed at least six (6) other required continuing education courses offered by the KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment). At Kidz Clubhouse, Breanna is now the back-up lead teacher and is set to take a lead position once the new infant room opens up. Another one of those skills that she mastered is one she dreaded – scheduling transportation with Wichita Paratransit. In addition to mastering skills, she has shown herself to be responsible and dependable. She has only missed two days of work since she began and even has a key to the building! It’s clear to everyone who meets Breanna that she is poised and ready to take on the world!

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Colin McKenney, CEO
ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.
TELEPHONE: 316-512-4105
E-MAIL: cmckenney@starkey.org

I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency’s Executive Director.

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org