

Outstanding Personal Growth Award Nomination

Nominee: Brent Jensen
Organization: Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc.

Nomination Narrative:

Big Lakes is proud to nominate Brent for the Outstanding Personal Growth Award. In the past year, Brent has gone through a lot of change. Brent was not always the most open to major life changes. However, after talking with his case manager and Big Lakes' staff, he realized that accepting residential services and moving from his family home would be the best for his personal development. His home life and family relationships were difficult and the move was needed to ensure his health and safety. Not only did he move from his family home in a small town, he moved to a larger community in Manhattan.

Once he got to Manhattan, he has thrown himself into becoming one of the biggest K-State sports fans and tries to go to any game of any sport he can. Before his move to Manhattan, this was rarely possible. His readiness to support the University can be seen in his K-State shirts and hats that you often find him wearing around Big Lakes.

Brent has demonstrated incredible patience and adaptability as he transitioned into a new lifestyle and routine. He has blossomed in his independence both in Day Services and Residential Services to include getting his first job in the community. He has made a lot of new friendships and makes it his duty to work hard every day. He blossomed from needing a lot of reassurance and staff guidance to being a leader and independent in his job at the work center to working successfully in competitive employment in less than a year.

During his job interview, he identified for his interviewer what areas that needed cleaned and taken care of and what he would do to make that happen. He was hired immediately. Brent continues to thrive in his community job and at his job at Big Lakes cleaning and taking out office trash. He happily walks into staff offices and greets the employee and says how happy he is to see them and help that day. Big Lakes is so lucky to have Brent and the enthusiasm he demonstrates for others in our program.

Name of Person Making This Nomination: Lori Feldkamp, CEO

Organization: Big Lakes Developmental Center

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