

Outstanding Volunteer Award Nomination

Nominee: Lauren Spector
Organization: Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc.

Nomination Narrative:

Big Lakes is proud to nominate Lauren Spector for the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Lauren Spector lights up when she starts talking about the relationships she has made with the clients at Big Lakes. For the past 3 years, Lauren has led the Purple Cat Buddies program at K-State while working to earn her degree. While in this role, she has led and set up multiple functions and activities for our client to participate in. As the president of Purple Cat Buddies, she takes the time to approach students at K-State to recruit volunteers for the program and act as an advocate for individuals with I/DD.

Her energy at Big Lakes makes such a positive impact on our clients and staff. She also approached Big Lakes to start a weekly dance class activity in our day program and, of course, we said YES! She had great participation from our clients and when COVID struck she switched to holding classes via zoom which included also included other members of the Wildcat Buddies. She also submitted video to the Big Lakes virtual talent show. Lauren's dedication to Big Lakes and the I/DD community as a whole is very apparent both in her volunteer work and her advocacy on social media.

When she walks into the room at Big Lakes, you can hear her name being cheered. Lauren has gone above and beyond in bringing awareness to Big Lakes' mission and has been a voice for Big Lakes on the K-State campus. Her understanding of our clients' needs and interests is something that will be dearly missed as she continues her work with the I/DD community in Kansas City post-graduation.

Name of Person Making This Nomination: Lori Feldkamp, CEO
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