



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Calhoun County encourages employee retention by promoting a culture of engagement through communication, appreciation and recognition.

Please join us in congratulating **ABBEY LABRECQUE** who has been recognized as Calhoun County's Employee of the Month for **NOVEMBER!** Abbey, Software Training Coordinator, with Information Technology. Is there a department within the County that Abbey isn't handling a process improvement project? Automate this, streamline that. Their expertise and capacity are unmatched. The new TechKnowledge Microsoft trainings have been wonderfully developed and interactive! Thank you for your flexibility, leadership, clarity, and humor - you are truly a joy to work with!

Number of Years at Calhoun County:

1 year and 2 months

Why do you like working for Calhoun County?

There are so many things I like about working for the County. Having grown up here, I enjoy learning about how local government functions and how our work impacts the community. I love the way the pace of our work makes room for me as a human and not just as a worker. When my grandmother died, my manager, coworkers, and even colleagues in different departments had absolutely no problem with me pausing our work and leaving big tasks behind in order to take bereavement leave. Which leads me to the comprehensive benefits and policies that accompany the pace in making me feel valued as a whole person when life happens. And finally, although I could go on, I will say the steadiness of this work, though sometimes mundane, is something that has brought newfound contentment to the beginning of my professional career.

Favorite thing about your job:

I truly believe that I work alongside some of the best colleagues a person could possibly ask for. I have joined a collective of people down here in IT who maintain a fun, yet professional and productive atmosphere. I am entrusted by leadership to work on and learn new skills for big projects that require me to find the most practical and affordable tech solutions to organizational business problems. And, on top of it all, I have been and continue to be empowered, encouraged, and celebrated every step of the way. Working with such great people is something I don't ever take for granted.

In addition to my colleagues both within and outside of my department, I love that I get to share the knowledge I've gained from tinkering around on my family's dial-up desktop computer in the mid to late 90's to all of you here at the County. As a kid, I used to make PowerPoints for fun because Microsoft products and computers were something new to explore, like a toy. (There's a reason Millennials created the PowerPoint party).

Technology has advanced exponentially since my childhood, but the essential tools Microsoft offers are still relevant in the work place today, which I think is absolutely incredible. Microsoft's relevance combined with my childhood experience presents this unique opportunity for me as a software training coordinator to educate and empower you all with the tools you need to do your jobs in a way that makes learning these complex systems more manageable and enjoyable. What I'm trying to say is that I love that I get to come to work every day and share my joy of technology with all of you. And I hope to be able to do it for a long time to come.

Favorite hobbies:

You can find me watching the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) – Go Red Stars!, coaching Portage Lightning youth soccer, wake surfing with Surf's Up, slaying daily sudoku, occasionally creating art, and bringing home many victories as Yoshi in Mario Party with friends and family.



Submit your Employee of the Month nominations online:

https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/human_resources/employee_of_the_month_nomination_form.php