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# Apprenticeship Success at Childcare Center

S&S Family Childcare Center in Huron County has celebrated a significant milestone with the successful launch of its first apprenticeship program, which was officially registered with the U.S. Department of Labor on October 7, 2022. This program has not only benefited the center but has also paved the way for aspiring childcare professionals like Kelli Ottinger.

Kelli, an apprentice in the Childcare Development Specialist program, has made remarkable strides in her career. She recently completed her apprenticeship on April 2, 2026, and her hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. As a result of her exceptional performance, Kelli has been promoted to the position of Program Administrator (Director) at S&S Family Childcare Center.

Serrenna Sengstock, the owner of S&S Family Childcare Center, expressed her delight in Kelli's accomplishments. "I truly enjoy working with Kelli. She has done such a great job throughout her apprenticeship and has shown incredible leadership," Serrenna stated. Her words highlight the impact that Kelli has made not only within the team but also in the lives of the children in their care.

A key partner in Kelli's success has been GST Michigan Works!, which provided crucial apprenticeship funding to support her journey. This funding helped cover the costs of essential tools and resources, including a laptop and accessories, a printer with ink, a headset, and various office supplies, all instrumental in facilitating her studies. Additionally, GST Michigan Works! contributed to her educational expenses by funding her books and assisting with car repairs. A total grant amounting to $6,059.00 was instrumental in ensuring that Kelli had the resources she needed to thrive

Kelli's journey through the apprenticeship program included 300 hours of technically focused instruction from Mott Community College, where she worked towards obtaining her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. Alongside her coursework, Kelli completed a minimum of 4,000 hours of on-the-job training at S&S Family Childcare Center in Bad Axe, gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

Reflecting on her experience, Kelli said, "Completing my apprenticeship has been a transformative journey. I am grateful for the support from Serrenna, my colleagues, and GST Michigan Works! This opportunity has not only helped me grow professionally but also allowed me to make a positive impact on the children and families we serve."

Kelli Ottinger's success story is a testament to the effectiveness of the apprenticeship model in developing qualified professionals in the early childhood education sector. S&S Family Childcare Center is proud to support such dedicated individuals and looks forward to seeing Kelli excel in her new role as Program Administrator (Director).