



BEST
from page 1A

Administration also named Mrs. Roberta DeCoteau the overall "Teacher of the Year" winner across the Turtle Mountain Community School system. Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment, Roberta!

Dr. Martin said this following today's Teacher of the Year awards ceremony.

"Today we celebrate by gifting our teachers and staff 'Staff Appreciation' items, a small meal, and a get-together. After all, events like these are how history is told and storytelling is done," stated Dr. Martin. "Today's accomplishments by school Teachers of the Year: Andrew LaFrance, Alex DeCoteau, Kolton Keplin, and Roberta DeCoteau, are voted by their peers and by what our students let us know about the intangibles each teacher has. We echo our 7 Teachings when we look for award winners. Those teachers are ones who encompass what our mission and vision statement conclude are all about these 7 things: Wisdom, Humility, Truth, Love, Respect, and Bravery... All the things that we want our children to learn and understand for leadership purposes are embodied in these leaders."

Dr. Martin added by saying this about Mrs. Roberta DeCoteau:

"The overall winner, Roberta DeCoteau, is one who brings a lot to the table. Unfortunately, she is also retiring this year. The amount of time she has spent educating our children, believing in what we do as a school system, and the sheer dedication to one system is uncanny. Like last year's winner, Mrs. Kathy Rohlfling, Roberta put in the work every day to see that our kids are safe, they are cared for, and that they are educated. Her work does not go unnoticed. She is truly someone very special to our school system and one that will be missed when she retires."

Friday's staff appreciation celebration is a perfect example of the commitment and hard work exemplified by the excellent educators and strong leadership of the administration throughout the Turtle Mountain Community School system. Dr. Martin thanked all staff on Friday for their hard work and dedication to the students of Turtle Mountain Community

"We are happy to celebrate this year's winners and to give our staff an appreciation day strictly for them and the hard work all year around," said Dr. Martin. "From our board of directors and our administration, we celebrate with you and thank you for your work for the Turtle Mountain Community School system."

Here's a list of all the employees recognized for their years of service to the Turtle Mountain Community School system.

- **Five Years of Service:** Kiana Belgarde, OIS; Samantha Bercier, TMCES; Ashley Michelle Chromy, TMCMS, BIE; Brennon Reece Davis, TMCMS, BIE; Julia Davis, TMCES; Mona Davis, OIS, BIE; Sara Davis, TMCHS; LeeAnn DeCoteau, TMCHS; Anna Delorme, TMCES, BIE; Coy Garrison, TMCES; Lerrick Jay Gourneau, TMCMS, BIE; Derrick Grant, TMCHS; Tenica Grant, TMCMS; Kayla Jetty, TMCMS; Sheena Laducer, TMCHS; Mariah Marcillais, OIS; Dean Martin, Bus

Garage; Robby Parisien, Event Center; Andrew Poitra, Bus Garage; Jessica Poitra, OIS; Royce Poitra, TMCMS; and Chelsea Unger, TMCHS.

- **Ten Years of Service:** Sheena Azure, TMCHS; Loren Baumgartner, TMCHS; Jacob DeCoteau, TMCHS; Tanya Grant, TTPP; Linda Gunville, TMCES, BIE; Andrea Herman, TMCMS; Stephanie Herman TMCES; Alana Laducer, PSN & Special Ed.; Joe LaVallie, TMCES, BIE; Brady Moses Parisien, TMCMS, BIE; Gaillard Peltier, TMCMS; and Kayla Trotter, TMCES, BIE.

- **Fifteen Years of Service:** Christopher Azure, TMCHS; Chad Belgarde, TMCES, BIE; Earl Demery, Business Office; Kristie Ann Desjarlais, TMCMS, BIE; Lynette Delorme, TMCES, BIE; Jennifer Frederick, TMCES, BIE; Jolene Hawk, OIS; April Keplin, OIS; Melissa Laducer, TMCES, BIE; Stephanie LaRocque, TMCES, BIE; Jessica McGillis, TMCHS; Eric Poitra, TMCHS; Fiona Vandal, TMCMS; and Jessica Zaste, TMCHS.

- **Twenty Years of Service:** Robin Day, TMCES, BIE; Wallace DeCoteau, TMCHS; Lynea Crissler, TMCES, BIE; Warren Gourneau, TMCES, BIE; Cory Keplin, OIS, BIE - Principal; Shelly King, OIS, BIE; Spencer Laducer, TMCHS; Stephanie "Snuzz" Laducer, TMCES, BIE; Crystal LaRocque, TMCHS; Lisa St. Germaine, TMCHS; Mary Short, TMCES, BIE; Gary Thomas, Jr., TMCHS; and Jessica Williams, TMCHS.

- **Twenty-five Years of Service:** Nancy Azure, TMCHS; Diana L. DeCoteau, TMCMS, BIE; Jason Laducer, TMCHS; Brad LaRocque, TMCHS, Principal; and Lynn St. Claire, PSN.

- **Thirty Years of Service:** Paullette Wallette, TMCHS.
- **Thirty-five Years of Service:** Suzie DeCoteau, TMCES, BIE; and Kayleen Rojas, PSN.

Congratulations to all staff members honored on Friday, and thank you for your years of service.



DRIVE
from page 1A

ist in Probates, then moved to the Realty Department shortly after, he accepted a position with the Great Plains Regional Office as a Realty Specialist. From there, he moved to the Fort Totten then on to Fort Berthold (Deputy Superintendent) and finally he made his way back home to Turtle Mountain (Deputy Superintendent). Here we are today, 25 years later, celebrating his retirement. Lyndon, we would like to thank you for your years of devotion and dedication to the BIA, and we wish you the best. In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Azure, the Council, and lastly, but most importantly, thank you to his family, for allowing us to share these 25 years with the BIA. Again, to Lyndon, thank you. Now go out and enjoy your well-deserved retirement! Please be sure to stop by and visit us, but of course after you finish that 'hunny-to-duce list' that Emily has for you."

As BIA Superintendent, Desjarlais was the primary representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, responsible for managing federal trust assets, fostering government-to-government relationships with the Tribe, while managing natural resources, overseeing law enforcement services, and supporting tribal self-determination programs.

Olivia Steve, BIA Great Plains Regional Director, said this about Lyndon as he departed the Turtle Mountain Agency last week.

"Twenty-three years is a remarkable run, but what stands out even more is how you spent it," Steve said. "You started as a GS-5 probate clerk, learned the work from the ground up, and never lost sight of the people behind it. From probate and realty clerk to senior Realty specialist at Fort Totten, to Deputy roles at Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain, you built a career the right way: steady, capable, and trusted. And then in 2016, you took the helm at Turtle Mountain Agency, the youngest Superintendent to do it, and one of the most respected. That doesn't happen by accident. It comes from how you led: taking care of your people, showing up for the Tribe, and doing the work with consistency and integrity. The reputation you've earned, across the agency and the

entire region, speaks for itself. More importantly, the respect you've earned from the Tribe says everything."

Steve added, "I didn't get nearly enough time working alongside you, but it didn't take long to see exactly who you are: a professional's professional, steady under pressure, and deeply committed to the mission and the people we serve. You leave big shoes behind, Lyndon... Turtle Mountain and the Great Plains Region are better because of you."

"As you step into this next chapter, I hope you take real pride in what you've built. You've made a lasting mark, and you will absolutely be missed. Thank you for your service, your leadership, and the example you set."

Turtle Mountain Tribal Council representatives presented Lyndon with a beautiful star quilt on Thursday and thanked him for his years of service. The council said Lyndon was easy to work with over the years and they appreciated his work and dedication to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Lyndon also reciprocated the mutual partnership with the Turtle Mountain Tribe and thanked them as well.

"Today, our TMBCI Tribal Council proudly recognized Lyndon Desjarlais, BIA Superintendent, for 25 years of dedicated service," Tribal Council says.

"On behalf of the entire TMBCI community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Desjarlais on his retirement and express our sincere gratitude for his many years of commitment and service to our people. Thank you for your leadership and dedication — wishing you all the best in your retirement!"

And lastly, Jennifer Champagne, BIA Supervisory Social Worker, said this about her fellow co-worker, Mr. Lyndon Desjarlais: "Wishing you all the best as you step into this exciting new chapter of retirement. Your dedication, hard work, and positive spirit have made a lasting impact on our staff and community," Champagne said. "Thank you for the knowledge you've shared and the support you've given. You will truly be missed. Now go enjoy retirement, whether that means relaxing, traveling, working for Emily (ha-ha), and spending time with the grandkids. Congratulations, Lyndon! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement! Thank you for your 25 years of dedicated service to the BIA!"

Congratulations on your retirement, Superintendent Desjarlais, the longest-sitting Superintendent at Turtle Mountain Agency, and thank you for all your years of dedication and service to the Turtle Mountain community. Enjoy your retirement!

Notice of Public Hearing
Date Changes

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the public hearing for the licensing issue that was scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th has been postponed to Wednesday, May 6th and the licensing hearing scheduled for May 14th has been changed to May 21st, 2026.

We apologize for the short notice, sorry for the inconvenience.

If you have any questions please contact the Tribal Office at 477-2602, 2664, 2677, 2626, or TERO at 477-2663 or 477-2661. Thank you.

KEYA PUBLIC RADIO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
May 4—May 8, 2026

SUPPORT YOUR PUBLIC RADIO STATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____



Detach & Mail to:

KEYA PUBLIC RADIO
PO Box 190
Belcourt, ND 58316

KEYA MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$15 SENIOR (age 65 or older)
- \$25 SPONSOR
- \$50 DONOR
- \$100 BENEFACTOR
- \$365 DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB