

# Collin County Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: Felicia      First Name: Felicia      Middle Initial: R      Last Name: Chism

Honoree's Job Title: JJAEP Program Coordinator

Department: Juvenile Probation Department

Years of Service with the County: 12 Years

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

On April 7, 2017, Felicia was observed spending time with child in distress who was attending the JJAEP Program. While the department has clinicians to provide therapeutic services, Felicia constantly makes time within her demanding administrative responsibilities to connect with each student referred to the JJAEP Program. These students often have histories of abuse, neglect, substance and emotional abuse, etc. Many of these students may also be diagnosed with emotional disabilities and trauma which manifest in physical and verbal outbursts in the classroom setting. Felicia's ability to connect with the students allow her to be able to build trust as she balances accountability of the program with compassion and understanding; helping these kids be successful in the JJAEP setting. The child Felicia was observed working with on April 7, 2017, is a high-risk, high-needs child who has come to depend on Felicia as a lifeline in the academic setting. By Felicia making herself an active part of this child's support system, physical interventions for behavior problems are eliminated in the JJAEP, where the child had repeated physical interventions due to escalating behavioral problems in her prior academic setting. There is always a chance for injury when physical intervention is required so Felicia's effort reduces liability for the county and promotes success and great outcomes for the children in our care.

Approved by elected official or department head on  
the

7<sup>th</sup> day of March ,20 17



Signature of Elected Official  
Or Department Head

H. Lynn Hadnot  
Printed Name