



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2018

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Kent County to Honor Employees for Public Service Recognition Week Celebration of "Excellence in Action" Planned for May 10

GRAND RAPIDS – Public service is more than a job; it is a calling where employees are dedicated to helping others. Public servants include the deputies who protect us, the staff and judges who provide justice through the courts, the elections workers who protect our ballots and ensure our right to vote, the public health employees making sure our most vulnerable are protected and provided tools for good health, and so many others. Public service often goes unrecognized. The week of May 6-12, 2018 is designated by Congress as Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW). The Kent County Board of Commissioners is grateful for the opportunity to say thank you for all Kent County employees do on behalf of our residents.

PSRW has been celebrated since 1985 during the first full week in May. It is a time to honor those who serve our Nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees. In 2017, we honored some of our programs with four *Excellence in Action* Awards. The Board is thrilled to recognize accomplishments with five awards this year:

- Excellence in Collaboration
- Excellence in Community Impact
- Excellence in Innovation
- Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (*new for 2018*)
- The Chairman's Award

These awards are built around the Performance Measures every department sets annually and on goals met for 2017. This is the second year of the Awards and Ceremony, which will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Commissioners' meeting. "I am proud to have been a part of the implementation of these awards. Our public service employees find innovative solutions to complex issues through hard work, determination, and collaboration," said Board Chair Jim Saalfeld. "The dedication of our staff does not go unnoticed by Commissioners, and we want our residents to know that we are proud to serve with the 1600-plus employees of Kent County."

Stay tuned to our social media pages for more about these awards and significant accomplishments: [facebook.com/KentCountyMI](https://www.facebook.com/KentCountyMI) and twitter.com/KentCountyMI. To learn more about the awards process, check out the video online at youtu.be/pJ-SOsyDyYQ.

MEDIA NOTE: You are invited to the Excellence in Action Awards Ceremony at the Board of Commissioners' Meeting being held in the evening of Thursday, May 10, 2018. The meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.; interviews will be available immediately before the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

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