



Empower Idaho, a Program of Jannus, Inc.  
1607 W Jefferson Street  
Boise, ID 83702



Dear Claudia Miewald,

Empower Idaho, in partnership with the Region 1 Behavioral Health Board, is pleased to inform you that you have been chosen to receive the 2023 Mental Health Advocate Award in celebration of Mental Health Month. Each of Idaho's seven Behavioral Health Boards selected an individual in their respective communities who exemplifies community advocacy, resiliency, and passion for mental health. Your work embodies these qualities and deserves recognition and celebration.

A few words from the Region 1 Behavioral Health Board: There is not a person more deserving of this recognition. Claudia has been the epitome of a mental health advocate throughout her career. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and psychology, as well as a master's degree in psychiatric and mental health nursing. In 2016, Claudia received her Doctor of Nursing Practice while serving as the Director at Kootenai Behavioral Health. After just shy of 20 years at Kootenai Behavioral Health, she semi-retired in December of 2022. Her never-ending drive to provide much needed care, expand care, and maintain care of those in our community suffering from substance use disorders and poor mental health is evident by the list of her many accomplishments.

A few of those accomplishments include: Opened the Northern Idaho Crisis Center in 2015, Served on the State of Idaho SHIP committee for Behavioral Health Integration, Served on the Blue Cross of Idaho Behavioral Health Advisory Board, Helped to open the Children's Advocacy Center, Expanded the Chemical Dependency Program until its closure in 2022, Opened the Adult Recovery Unit (Detox Unit) at Kootenai Health in 2022, Oversaw Clinical Operations of the Adult Unit, Youth Unit, and Chemical Dependency Unit at Kootenai Health for almost 18 years partnering with many community leaders to assist the mentally ill and SUD population of the Region, Served on the Region 1 Behavioral Health Board as an officer for almost 18 years, Served on the Safe Passage Board for 2.5 years, and served on the Nurse Leaders of Idaho Board for over 10 years as Secretary and Legislative Chair. We are so fortunate to have had an advocate like Claudia Miewald for over 20 years' time.

Congratulations on receiving this meaningful recognition. The Empower Idaho team is grateful for the opportunity to honor you in this way. We are in the process of creating a physical award to commemorate what you mean to the Idaho Mental Health Community, which will be mailed to you. In the meantime, please accept this certificate in recognition of all your hard work and commitment to helping others!

Sincerely,

Alejandra Del Toro  
*Empower Idaho Program Manager*