



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

★ Abilene State Supported Living Center ★

**OUR MISSION:**  
To empower people to make choices  
that result in a life of dignity and  
increased independence.

# AbSSLC News

Abilene SSLC

Week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Gate Reminders

- **Have your badge out** and ready to show before arriving at the entrance.
- **Come to a complete stop.** Pickups will take a few extra seconds while the pickup bed is checked.
- **Roll down your window.** This is required for all vehicles – it can be very hard to see your badge through the glass.
- **Turn down your radio.** While we can all agree that *loud* country music is the *best* country music, it's not good at the gate.
- **Dim your lights when it's dark!** This is a huge courtesy to those working at the gate. You will likely be reminded each time if you aren't doing this.
- **Try not to be ugly.** It can be hard for some to be nice (Melissa Castillo?) but acting ugly at the gate just gets a report sent to your supervisor. And it's mean.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Street Gate is two-way from 0730-0800 Monday-Friday only.**

## Congratulations to our Spring 2026 Leadership Course Graduates!

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, staff gathered to honor graduates completing a 6-week course in Leadership. Graduates were awarded a certificate and were presented with live music and speeches celebrating their achievements. We are grateful for their contribution to our campus leadership.



Pictured from left are Jesse Pedroza, Annie Chavez, Brooke McQuay, Jordan Tarafa, Camille Anderson, Alexis Behnsch, Keagan Walker, Bobby Caskey, Victoria Walker, Anthony Bower, Oscar Torralba, Ricky Bradford. Not pictured is Graduate David Brown.



Click the picture above to make your nomination!

The Leadership Committee also presented a special recognition certificate to Kayla Saucedo for her dedication to support our emerging leaders. Presenting the certificate on behalf of the Committee membership was Sarah Chavarria.



# May 2026 Employee of the Month

Hailey Mitchell, BSN, RN

Campus Nursing



**Tell us about your time with AbSSLC. When did you start? What positions have you held since being here?**

I started as a direct care RN in 2019 at 6350 1<sup>st</sup> Street and moved out of state and came back in 2022 as the RNCM for 6400 Plum and I'm the RNCM at 5961/62 currently. All together I have been at ABSSLC for 5 years.

**What makes you do what you do?**

I truly enjoy caring for the residents who have made a meaningful impact on my life, as well as my coworkers who I have made lifelong friendships with.

**Tell us about your favorite memory in your time at AbSSLC?**

One my favorite memories would be going to the dances and watching the residents have fun as well as the staff. I also enjoy volunteering at Christmas Lane every year with my dad who works here also.

**What recommendations do you have for other staff?**

Take breaks when you need them - mentally and physically. Treat others how you want to be treated.

**If you had a magic wand, what is something you would change about AbSSLC to make it better for those we serve?**

I would fix the staffing shortages. I believe staff would be able to put more into their jobs if they were able to have a better work/life balance.

**If you have had a mentor at AbSSLC, can you name that person and something they instilled in you?**

Ashlee Sandoval, RN and Jennifer Rodriguez, LVN are the nurses I have worked with on the young men's home and 6400 Plum previously. They have helped me be a better nurse and they also truly care about the guys, which makes the environment on the home more positive. Teamwork is key!

**Any other comments to include your story?**

Thank you all for the recognition! It truly makes my heart happy, and I appreciate all of you that work so hard for the residents as well as for the facility in general. There are some great people at ABSSLC, and it is a blessing that I get to work with you all.



Don't miss out  
on the 2026  
Formal!



Coming Soon!  
Stay tuned for  
details

# Shout Outs!

Shout Out for **Cindy Bowman** and her amazing **Rec Team!** Recently, Cindy and the crew, along with QA Nurse **Randa Doshier**, attended the 2026 Special Olympics Summer Games in Melissa, Texas. To watch the enthusiasm, support and care each member of the Rec Team poured into making the event special for our Tiger Team athletes was truly inspiring. Not to mention, the complexity of keeping track of events taking place at different venues over a Texas super-sized High School complex and making sure safety, nutrition and medications were top on the priority list! Thank you, Rec Team for bringing moments of joy to our Tiger Team athletes ... the real winner is all of us here on campus!

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who helped make it a fun Public Service Recognition Week 2026! **THANK YOU: Diner Crew, David, Amanda** for passing out sodas on Monday; **Jeff, Tara, Steven, Joanna, Melissa, Linda, David, Ted** for serving Soda floats on Wednesday; **Jeff, Jimmy, Joanna, Lupe, Linda, Barbara, Melissa, Misty, Edward, Deborah, Amy, Mike, and Jeanne Mari** for greeting at the gate with a treat on Friday! **THANK YOU: Kitchen/Diner** for helping get/deliver/store drinks/ice cream. **THANK YOU:** everyone who dressed up during these days and held special activities within your departments! **THANK YOU: Administration for the treats all week!** Most of all, **THANK YOU** for serving the people living at AbSSLC the way you do EVERY DAY!

Shout Out to **Veronique Titus** to volunteer to clean and straighten up the infirmary storage room. It looks amazing and has added much needed space to the area. It is greatly appreciated!

## AbSSLC in the Friday Photos!

ABILENE SSLC



### Life Safety Code Tip of the Week

No storage of significant or concentrated quantities of combustibles/flammables except in areas designed and equipped for that purpose.

# Shout Out Abilene!

We want to hear from you! Have a **suggestion** on how to make Abilene SSLC the best place ever to live & work? Have a **concern** to express? Want to **recognize someone** for their amazing work? **Shout Out and let us know!**



You can also **email** your Shout Out to [jeff.goza@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:jeff.goza@hhs.texas.gov) or **text** it to 325.370.4525!