

Ingham Impact Episode 42 – Michelle Rutan

Christan Guetschow: I had moved back to Michigan, after being in North Carolina for eight years, and was also on maternity leave, and decided it was time to go back to work. And I came here, to Williamston, got a job, and that first year, I was reaching out to anybody that would come help me, support me, and kind of teach me the ropes again. I don't remember how I got it, but Michelle's name came up and I called her, and she came out and her personality, her advice, everything. She gave me more support in that one moment than I had had all year, and it just made my day. Made my year!

Ann Green: I have a child with a disability, and when you're close to it everyday, sometimes you don't think that they can do things that they really can do. Michelle always comes at you with all the possibilities that your kid can do.

Melissa Boelter: Michelle's very dedicated, and I think she pushes and brings that to all of the activities we do. The first event that we worked really closely on with her was the first Transition Fair. She just kept us moving, kept us moving forward; she's a wealth of information. There's knowledge there, there's resources. She knows everyone, so she knows who to connect you with, when and where. I think that's made the biggest impact; it's not only what you know, but how you network and get the information back out to other parents that need it.

Christan Guetschow - No matter what the situation is, I know I can call her and reach out to her, and having that kind of lifeline, knowing that no matter what the situation is, she's not going to judge me, but she's going to help and she's going to encourage me. To know that, there's somebody in my corner; she's going to be there for me no matter what.

Ann Green: You need to get to know Michelle because she just brings joy everywhere she goes. She definitely has a vision for our students in our community, and she's tenacious about finding the people that can make it happen, and she won't stop until something is going on.

Melissa Boelter: Michelle is inspiring; she makes you want to be a better person and reach out and help someone, which creates that ripple effect, and then they'll help someone, and I think that's the best way people can be.

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