Collin County
Going the **E**xtra **M**ile (**GEM**) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: Daryl Morris

Honoree's Job Title: Auxiliary Court Court Reporter

Department: Auxiliary Court

Years of Service with the County: ~1 year_

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

The State of Texas is experiencing a shortage of qualified court reporters. Daryl has gone above and beyond to address this challenge by proactively reaching out to court reporting schools and offering to mentor graduating reporters in an effort to build a strong pipeline of qualified reporters for Collin County.

She has invited students to shadow her, provided hands-on guidance, and personally supported them through their first assignments in the County. As a direct result of her efforts, we currently have at least three new court reporters available to serve Collin County.

The 493rd District Court was engaged in a week-long jury trial in September 2026 when our official court reporter unexpectedly became ill and was unable to continue. Despite already carrying out her own responsibilities as the official court reporter for Auxiliary Court, Daryl immediately stepped in to assist. She made numerous calls and inquiries to help locate a qualified reporter so that our trial would not have to be canceled.

Because of the pipeline she has worked so diligently to develop, we were able to secure a new court reporter to cover the remainder of the trial. Daryl went above and beyond by meeting with the reporter during every break to ensure that the record was being accurately preserved and to provide guidance and reassurance as he gained confidence in the assignment.

Without Daryl's initiative, resourcefulness, and commitment to developing new reporters, we would have been forced to cancel the trial. That would have resulted in significant inconvenience, disruption, and expense for the litigants, attorneys, jurors, and citizens of Collin County. Her efforts not only helped preserve the trial schedule but also demonstrated the tangible value of the pipeline she has worked to create for the County.

She is very deserving of a GEM Award.

Approved by elected official or department head on the 30th day of September, 2026

Signature of Elected Official
or Department Head

CHIEF JUSTICE

Christine A. Nowak

Printed Name