

Virginia PTA *Volunteer of the Year*

2023-2024



Jessica Cruz * Sealston Elementary School PTA

Northern Region, King George Council of PTAs

Jessica Cruz's creativity, planning, hands-on approach, and welcoming personality has helped create new traditions, as well as increased family engagement and memberships. Jessica has been instrumental in organizing Student Appreciation Days, After School Activities, Book Fairs, and Touch-A-Truck, and more. She keeps families informed through newsletters, and social media, offers to give volunteers a ride home, and is always available to answer questions. Jessica has created a positive volunteer culture and been instrumental in making the PTA successful.



Hina Mistry * Short Pump Middle School PTSA

Central Region, Henrico County Council of PTAs

Hina Mistry has been an active PTA volunteer for over a decade. She participates in any and all committees and events, from fundraising, hospitality, festivals, dances, and Teacher Appreciation Week. She will always step in to help no matter the job, whether it's organizing Back to School tours for incoming students or creating digital marketing materials for family engagement events. Hina creates multiple avenues for parental involvement, and families love coming to events because Hina invests so much time to make them a success.



Jo Ellen Schneider * Atlee High School PTSA

Central Region, Hanover County Council of PTA's

Jo Ellen Schneider's outgoing, charismatic personality and tireless dedication has helped the PTSA develop strong relationships with Atlee families, teachers, staff, and administration. She works tirelessly to enrich the lives of students and staff at Atlee High School and has been the driving force behind developing many events including monthly teacher appreciation meals, teacher supply drives, post Prom events, student scholarships, and spiritwear drives. In addition to multiple methods of written family communication JoEllen also has Parent PTSA coffee hours at two coffee shops for parents to connect and learn about the PTSA,



Erin Gibbens * South Lakes High School PTSA

Northern Region, Fairfax County of PTA's

Erin Gibbens is an innovative, problem-solving volunteer who has been revamping her PTSA's website while attending every event. She has worked with the entire board to make sure the website is more user friendly and is the key to the rebranding the communication between families, staff, and the PTSA. All of this digital work is in conjunction with her work on the Homecoming Parade float, sorting food for the Food Pantry, and serving food monthly to the faculty and staff of South Lakes High School.



Jessica Blandy * Roanoke City Council PTA

Blue Ridge Region, Roanoke City Council of PTA/PTA's

Jessica's enthusiasm, warm personality, and attention to detail has created a positive culture of support and collaboration for PTAs across Roanoke City. Jessica helped restart several PTAs over the past year, and helped several PTAs effectively advocate for issues important to their school community including increased funding, walking zones, school safety, and increased parent communication.

