

## School of Excellence Program Leader Quotes

Selected quotes from 2019-2021 National PTA School of Excellence Program Leaders about the School of Excellence program and impact:

### ALABAMA

“We appreciate the guidance we've received in this process. Thank you!” – Christina D Miller, Floyd Middle Magnet School PTSA

“This program helped improve relationships, communication, and build trust at our school!” - Colleen Hawthorne, Pike Road High School at the Georgia Washington Campus PTSA

### ARIZONA

“It was great to understand the importance of what a PTA does and how to effectively push it to help the school.” - Sara Bauler, Marley Park PTA

### CALIFORNIA

“I really appreciate the School of Excellence program. It outlined great ways to increase effectiveness through achievable steps.” – Melanie McShane, Longden Elementary School

“I think every school should attempt this program at some point. We were a young PTA, only 5 years old, and it helped us figure out what we wanted to be as we started to incorporate new leaders.” - Amy Wood, Franklin Elementary PTA

“I recommend it to other schools in our district. The survey was a great activity to help us focus our efforts over the year.” - Ni Kal Price, Mark Twain Elementary PTA

“I love how the program gives direction to our efforts.” - Amy Malaise, McKinley School PTA

### CONNECTICUT

“I enjoyed the application process very much. It seems this is very school administration focused in terms of setting the goal and working through the roadmap.” – Jennifer Padilla, Hawley PTA

### DELAWARE

“This experience has helped our school community bond and grow.” - Betty Walker, Maclary PTA



“Thank You for supporting our schools and for recognizing Parent Teacher Student Associations for their hard work and achievement!” - Jacqilyn Edwards, Kaiserslautern Middle School PTSA

### **FLORIDA**

“Appreciated identifying additional opportunities to engage parents!” - Denise Nicolas, Seven Oaks Elementary PTA

“This was my first time leading the program and I found it to be a great way to set a concrete goal for our PTA and help us achieve it with an easy step by step action plan. Emails, reminders, webinars, all materials provided were accessible and easy to understand. This is a user-friendly program that can lead PTAs to greater success, even when they are already high achieving PTAs. We are always looking to improve, reach the families in as many ways as possible. Thank you National PTA for providing this program.” - Meredith Loudenback, Chets Creek PTA

“It’s a great program because it brings the PTA and Administration together as partners to address how schools can be improved in the community, communication, and their goals!”  
Lizannette Tam, Sunrise Elementary PTA

“I think this is a great opportunity for schools to work towards a common goal and make improvements as well as share in their recognition of success.” - Cory Stevenson, Leroy Collins Elementary PTA

“This process gave us an opportunity to engage families in becoming part of student success and partnering with the school. Families were very receptive and continue to be. We are very much looking forward to continue to work at being a School of Excellence.” – Shoshana Buchanan, Maitland Middle PTA

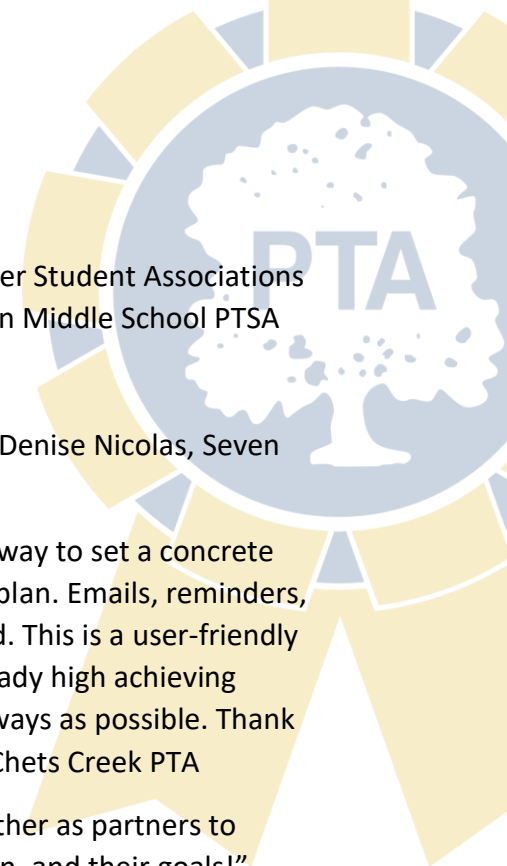
### **ILLINOIS**

“I love the opportunity to be included in the program and have all my teachers & principal be involved with the program for our school.” - Catherine Jones, Frederick Douglass PTSA

### **KENTUCKY**

“Thanks for making this program so well organized. It was a lot of hard work, but we are glad that we did it, and look forward to participating again in the future.” - Jenny Price, Ockerman Middle School PTSA

“We have seen more parent involvement than ever before, and our school is better for participating.” - Jenny Price, Ockerman Middle School PTSA



## **LOUISIANA**

“We have benefitted as a PTSA for having common goals and objectives the last 2 years. Our school and our PTSA has greatly improved and benefitted from being involved in the SOE.” - Allison Barrett, Captain Shreve PTSA

## **MARYLAND**

“The National PTA School of Excellence Program is great. It definitely helps local PTA/PTSA leaders advocate for what their schools really value.” - Tonya Sweat, The PTSA of the Oxon Hill HS Clippers, Inc.

“This was an amazing journey and inspired the board to step it up. Thank you for your support.” - Achaia Walton, Kenmoor Middle School PTSA

“I enjoyed the process & found the material provided very helpful.” - Casey Otten, Talbott Springs Elementary School PTA

## **MICHIGAN**

“I love this program and the recognition that this program brings about the PTA to the community. Such an important program to share the voice of parents.” - Tammy Luty, Farmington STEAM Academy PTSA

## **MISSOURI**

“We just love this program! Very well put together, concise, and informative!” - Emily, Bornheimer, Thomas B. Chinn PTA

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

“This is my first year as Secretary of our PTA and I thought that the roadmap and tool kits you offered were very easy to follow.” - Brittney Finnerty, New Town Elementary PTA

## **NEW JERSEY**

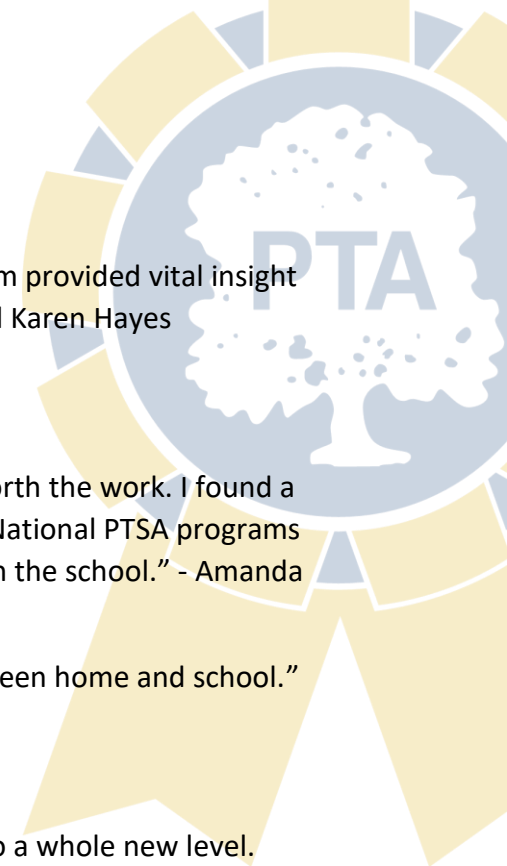
“This program was very easy to follow. All of the steps and information I needed was on the website to keep me on track. The email reminders also were a great tool.” – Lisa Wilson, The Jamesburg PTA

“The School of Excellence program has given us a chance to explore the needs of our school in a way we never have before!” - Krysta Jackson, Lake Riviera Middle School PTA

## **NEVADA**

“The SOE program provided our PTA with necessary tools and ideas for creating an environment that upholds the standards of PTA.” - Heather Vallejos, Keith and Karen Hayes Elementary School PTA





“The resources, materials, and partners associated with the SOE program provided vital insight for creating a stronger school community.” - Heather Vallejos, Keith and Karen Hayes Elementary School PTA

### **NEW YORK**

“It was time consuming for a small unit, but I think our outcome was worth the work. I found a great deal of value in the links within the program to other portions of National PTSA programs and looking at other ways we could better serve and work together with the school.” - Amanda M Lonsberry, Mount Morris PTSA

“This program really helps bring attention back to the relationship between home and school.” - Jenn Collazo, Shenendehowa HS PTSA

### **OHIO**

“Our journey with the School of Excellence program elevated our PTA to a whole new level. Instead of going from good to great, we are now going from great to PHENOMENAL.” - RicJunette Addie-Carson, Cheviot PTA

“We've really enjoyed the process. As a Council President during our last designation, I worked to help facilitate the program for all units in our district which was an incredibly successful and that also allowed us to collaborate better with our entire district administration. I believe National PTA could provide materials and information to help other districts do the same.” - Lauren Suter, Forest PTA

“I believe the School of Excellence programs serves as a wonderful opportunity for schools and families to engage and interact, as well as helping PTA units to help implement programs and strategies to improve the school environment and advocate for all children.” - Lauren Suter, Forest PTA

“I think it is a great program and I wish more schools/PTAs did it! It really helps you see all of the amazing things your school is doing already and how to bring even more success to your families.” – Nicole Lesnick, Brookview PTA

### **TEXAS**

“Thank you for offering this program because it really helped us reach more parents, staff members and students.” - Brenda Crawley, Cunningham Middle School PTA

“This program allowed my PTA to show parents as well as the scholars what the PTA had done and will continue to do for the years to come.” - Germaine Walker-Brewer, Sam Houston PTA

“Great program to get us clearly focused on what we wanted to achieve during the school year.” - Michelle Hernandez, Timber Creek Elementary PTA

“I enjoyed taking part in the School of Excellence program. It gave us opportunity to get feedback from our school community, to make connections and grow stronger in relationships. It opened doors of communication because it was a "tool" of neutrality to unite school and parents in a way of something positive for everyone. We (as parents and PTA) appreciated being able to approach admin with this idea of spending the year working together in partnership and collaboration to make our school stronger and better for everyone. It truly opened the door for us and helped soften the invisible barriers that were up to separate us. I'm glad we did.” - Amy Rutzen, Flower Mound Elementary PTA

“I think the School of Excellence Program is very useful to help a PTA reach its greatest potential and do the most for its students. It is fairly easy to get into a routine of doing the same programs year in and year out, so it is very helpful to follow a program that inspires you to do more.” – Heather Coleman, Wyatt Elementary PTA

### **UTAH**

“Thank you for offering an organized program to help us create steps to improve our school. Earning this designation is a great reminder for the community of what a wonderful school we are part of!” - Melanie Larsen, Centerville Elementary PTA

“This is our 3rd time participating in this program. We love what it stands for, and how it keeps us in touch with our community, and constantly striving for more transformative engagement, and unity.” - Emilie Nuttall, Northridge Elementary

“This program has helped us to focus our efforts as a PTA and set deliberate goals to improve the school.” - Melanie Larsen, Centerville Elementary PTA

### **VIRGINIA**

“Thank you. The materials were helpful guides. I appreciate that the webinar is flexible.” - Chrissy Huffman, Portlock Primary PTA

“This program made me really think about what I wanted to achieve for my school community this year and interact more with all community members.” - Daphne Callender, Springfield Estates Elementary School PTA

“This is a great way to engage parents because people love a special designation that all schools do not have!” - Cassandra Willis, Greenwood Elementary PTA