



## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Maryland's Local School Systems

Past *Parent Involvement Matters Award* Recipients

Ms. Maureen Moran, *PIMA* Team Chair (2007-2014),  
whose dedication and energy helped to create this awards program

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With special appreciation extended to the following staff:

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Joshua Walley



## 9TH ANNUAL

# Parent Involvement Matters Awards Celebration

Friday, June 3, 2016

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Martin's West



*Choose your seat. Get involved!*

Thank you for joining the Maryland State Department of Education to celebrate **the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Involvement Matters Award (PIMA) Celebration!**

We are here to honor 25 outstanding parents and guardians who volunteer their time to truly make a difference in Maryland public education. Tonight, you will hear about the incredible impact these parents have on their communities, and how parent involvement is the single most significant factor in ensuring student success. Whether it is in the classroom, on the athletic field, or in the community, **parent involvement has a seat. We encourage you to be involved.**



9TH ANNUAL  
*Parent Involvement Matters Awards Celebration*  
**DINNER AWARDS PROGRAM**

**EMCEE**  
*Kate Amara*  
 WBAL-TV

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

*Dr. Darla Strouse*, Executive Director  
 Office of Partnerships and Recognition  
 Maryland State Department of Education

**ENTERTAINMENT**

The Franklin High School Ensemble  
*John & Chantel Yadush*  
*Jose Gomez*, Student Performer

**REMARKS**

*Carrie Jasper*  
 U.S. Department of Education

*Marcella E. Franczkowski*, Assistant State Superintendent  
 Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services  
 Maryland State Department of Education

*Orly Mondell*  
 2016 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year

*Elizabeth Leight*, President  
 Maryland PTA

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Semifinalists  
 Finalists  
 Statewide Winner

**2016 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARDS**

*Suzanne Wieland*

*Chapel District Elementary School, Talbot County*

No better person to take on fundraising for an improved playground at Chapel District other than Suzanne Wieland. Thinking “outside of the sandbox”, Suzanne coordinated Pennies for Playgrounds raising over \$45,000 from spare change brought in by students to donations from businesses. As this project is now underway, you can find Suzanne at Chapel District helping where needed.

*Jennifer Poffenberger*

*Boonsboro High School, Washington County*

Boonsboro High has all-star player Jennifer Poffenberger on its team. Jennifer serves on the School Improvement Team, assists as a parent advisor for the Student Government Association, and most recently, scored big raising money to install a new, state-of-the-art scoreboard and sound system in the athletic stadium. Way to go, Jennifer!

*Donna Turnamian*

*Evening High School, Wicomico County Public Schools*

We know that “It takes a village to raise a child”, and as a part of that village, Donna Turnamian didn’t need to be asked twice by her church to lend a hand for the County’s Evening High School. As a school that does not have a traditional PTA, where parents may work multiple jobs, and some students’ parents are not in the picture. Donna has helped bring together caring adults who serve as “surrogate” parents, secured personal items for students, and provided support to students so they graduate and receive their diploma.

*Janice Clark*

*Stephen Decatur High School, Worcester County*

Stephen Decatur High is lucky to have Janice Clark who is their “Janice of all trades.” Her positive spirit brings crowds of students and adults to the school store to purchase school merchandise, and if not at the school store, she can be found in the drama department where she spends much of her time helping with productions from carpentry to photographer to seamstress. She is available all hours of the day and late night too, but only for her Stephen Decatur family.

A special recognition and appreciation to *Ms. Mary Hennessey-Rayburn*, art teacher at Eastern Technical High School in Baltimore County, and her students, *Harshika Varadhan, Lauren Brown* and *Rachel Bull*, who shared their artistic skills and talents by painting the **2016 Parent Involvement Matters Awards** chairs. *Thank you!*





## 2016 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARDS

### ***Lori A. Green***

**Northwest High School, Montgomery County**

There was no way parents of the African American Parent Council were going to move forward in planning a summit without Lori Green. As the heart and soul of this Council, Lori spent countless hours at Northwest organizing the Council's Summit to begin a dialogue among parents, students, and teachers to discuss the issues related to achievement gaps of many African American students.

### ***Earnest Moore***

**Prince George's County Public Schools, Prince George's County**

Earnest Moore, also known as Mr. PTA, is a staunch advocate and unstoppable volunteer making a positive impact on public education. Having served as the district's PTA President, Mr. Moore has not slowed down in his involvement. From serving on the district's Parent and Community Advisory Council to a newly formed Student Safety Task Force to connecting with parents representing diverse cultures and languages, Mr. Moore has been an integral partner in education representing the voices of parents.

### ***Cinda Anthony***

**Sudlersville Middle School, Queen Anne's County**

Spring arrived at Sudlersville Middle School's spring concert when Cinda Anthony brought the stage to life with a flower garden complete with a picket fence and giant sunflowers. Not to mention, when the choir gowns needed some alterations, there she was to lend a helping hand. Whether it's sewing a gown for a student or making sure the trees on the stage have lights, Cinda is tireless and works until the job is done!

### ***Jason Mandeville***

**Mechanicsville Elementary School, St. Mary's County**

What gets kids talking at Mechanicsville Elementary is how Mr. Mandeville exploded a pumpkin and a jack o'lantern face appeared! Sharing his passion for learning about scientists and how they have impacted our lives has enlightened second through fifth grade students in the school's Science Club. It's no wonder students at Mechanicsville can't wait to get their Science Club reminder of what the next Tuesday Science Club will bring!

### ***Timothy Bozman***

**Princess Anne Elementary School, Somerset County**

There's nothing like having the Chief of Police as an involved parent at school! Tim Bozman blends his professional networks to support outreach and awareness programs to benefit students and parents at Princess Anne Elementary. He can also be found on the field coaching extracurricular sports, all the while he has been working on and just graduated with his Bachelors in Science Degree. Congratulations, Tim!

## 2016 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARDS

### ***Angela Frost and Charity Walters***

**John Humbird Elementary School, Allegany County**

This dynamic duo, Charity Walters and Angela Frost, spearhead John Humbird's volunteer program by providing helping hands to support students and teachers. Together, they share in decision making roles at the school and district level by serving on school level committees as well as the district's Parent Advisory Council where they network with other local parent advocates on school initiatives.

### ***Chen Chen***

**Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Anne Arundel County**

Upon completion of Anne Arundel County Public School's International Parent and Community Leadership Academy, Chen Chen recognized a need to bring together parents of the Chinese community who are otherwise spread across the county and not connected. She created an online community for Chinese parents living in the County to network with one another and share educational resources and information.

### ***Aaron I. Simpson***

**Edmondson Westside High School, Baltimore City**

Aaron Simpson's involvement in Edmondson-Westside High School's Life Skills Program has been pivotal in leading parents to support their children who have an intellectual disability. During parent nights, cultural shows, and other related school-based activities, Mr. Simpson is actively sharing his experiences and expertise on how parents can be responsibly accountable for their children's learning needs.

### ***Cheri Pegues***

**Towson High School, Baltimore County**

Recognizing the many needs of Towson High's diverse community, Cheri initiated Adopt a Family, a community drive to assist several families with various supports from clothing to school supplies. Her organization, attention to detail, and sound decision making have resulted in numerous donations benefiting students and families at Towson.

### ***Tammy Brunstrom***

**Huntingtown High School, Calvert County**

Tammy is a volunteer extraordinaire. From her current position as PTSA President and officer for the Booster Club, she has organized fundraisers, served on school level decision-making committees, and held many PTA/PTSA board positions, never losing sight of what she does benefits all parents and students.



## 2016 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARDS

### ***Kristen Robinson***

#### **Greensboro Elementary School, Caroline County**

She may be soft spoken and quiet, but behind the scenes, Kristen Robinson provides Greensboro with a great deal of love and support through her tireless efforts of organizing Family Fun Day. The schools biggest fundraiser, school staff, families, and business and community partners enjoy a day of fun while raising money to support educational programs at Greensboro. In its third year, a new addition will be Kiss the Pig. It is sure to have the kids and parents squealing.

### ***Daniel Simon***

#### **Eldersburg Elementary School, Carroll County**

Daniel Simon is a groovy parent volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the school community by organizing and holding an annual *Groovy Science Night* event. Through this project, students have the opportunity to experiment with topics such as thermal imaging, environmental science, and chemistry.

### ***Timothy Dominick***

#### **Leeds Elementary School, Cecil County**

Through his work with Orbital ATK and his support of public education, students in Cecil County benefit from Timothy Dominick's desire to bring STEM to all children. From having all kindergarten classes at Leeds have their names travel to space as virtual crew members, to organizing a schoolwide assembly for NASA's Orion EFT-1 Launch, to having an astronaut speak with second grade classes, Mr. Dominick is providing opportunities so students can take-off as our future STEM leaders.

### ***Thomas Gordon, Sr.***

#### **Indian Head Elementary School, Charles County**

Mr. Gordon makes the students at Indian Head a top priority by spearheading Keeping Kids in Coats Program, serves as the Fifth Grade Robotics Coach, and volunteers in the schools PBIS program, to name a few. He also took career day to a new level when he came dressed in his United States Park Police uniform and brought his horse 60 miles so students could experience more. One mom said that she can only imagine the possibilities that this opened in her child's eyes.

### ***Kimberly Conner***

#### **North Dorchester High School, Dorchester County**

"Approaching Arts and Athletics" is a project that has developed and evolved over the last six years thanks to Kim Conner. Her efforts to organize, facilitate and communicate fundraising incentives to students, parents, and the community has afforded students band trips to Florida and transportation to local parades, nursing homes, and community centers, not to mention lending her professional talents as a Nurse Practitioner to assist coaches on the playing field.

## 2016 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARDS

### ***Jeff Downing***

#### **Wolfsville Elementary School, Frederick County**

Wolfsville Elementary, located on top of a mountain in North-West Frederick County, now serves as a hub in the community thanks to Jeff Downing's efforts. Through his door knocking, leg work, and trips to the market, Jeff created All Pro Families Breakfast which brings together 70-80 family members, staff, and students to enjoy a hot breakfast to discuss interesting topics and current events, with the purpose of uniting the community around children.

### ***Regina Holliday***

#### **Grantsville Elementary School, Garrett County**

From the brush to the canvas, Regina Holliday brought art to life by organizing the Grantsville Art Walk Project to raise awareness for the fine arts in the community. Working with all classes, splashing colors and creativity, student masterpieces along with local artists work were displayed at local businesses and later auctioned. Her efforts raised over \$600 to benefit students and the fine arts program at Grantsville Elementary.

### ***Sandi Easton***

#### **Bakerfield Elementary School, Harford County**

Sandi Easton has been instrumental in the transformation of family engagement at Bakerfield Elementary. From serving on the school's Improvement Team to fundraising for educational resources, to starting a PTA with active staff and parent membership, Sandi is a valued asset and greatly admired by staff and parents alike.

### ***Scott Brown***

#### **Swansfield Elementary School, Howard County**

Scott Brown is one mighty dad who started Mighty Men. This program focuses on providing positive male role models for students and providing an extra set of eyes and ears to enhance the school's safe and nurturing environment while reducing bullying.

### ***Stephanie A-R Edwards***

#### **Kent County High School, Kent County**

Stephanie Edwards is not one to allow a little hard work to scare her away! She was quick to offer up her expertise and agree to serve as Treasurer for the high school's newly formed Athletic Boosters where she has been instrumental in taking on tedious tasks like filing paperwork to become a new 501(c)(3) as well as helping to form the new bylaws.