

Virginia PTA Secondary Volunteer of the Year 2010-2011

Jennifer Read Campbell

Westfield High School – Northern Virginia District

Jennifer has served in the PTA for the past 11 years at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. At the time of submission, she was the PTSA president at Westfield High School. She also served as PTSA secretary, the local unit president at Cub Run Elementary PTA as well as on the board at Stone Middle School.

Quoted from her application:

As President of the Westfield High School PTSA, Jennifer Campbell has all the attributes of a successful president. What makes her an exceptional president is her vision, determination, drive and long-term commitment to Westfield High School and its students, teachers and parents. Jennifer is a pro-active president; she is always listening and always thinking of new ways to communicate with and educate the greater Westfield community. She has a seemingly boundless supply of energy. She refuses to let things fall through the cracks. She is everywhere: from writing newsletter columns to raising funds, organizing the installation of the school marquee, from manning the PTSA tables at events and checking coats at Homecoming.

Jennifer cultivates positive working relationships wherever she volunteers, and then uses these personal connections to facilitate collaboration between organizations with common goals. The most obvious examples of this are the educational programs sponsored by the PTSA with the input of the Westfield Community Coalition. These collaborative relationships ensure that all members of Westfield's staff from the administrators to those in maintenance support the PTSA in events and activities that enhance our student's safety and enrich their school experience.

Jennifer's personal statement:

Sixteen years ago, I never thought I'd be doing what I have been doing since I first stepped in Fairfax County Public Schools. Having moved to the area the year previous and passing by Virginia Social Work Licensure exam, my sister passed away unexpectedly, leaving behind her beautiful children, ages 2, 6 & 8. Shortly, thereafter, her estranged husband died from alcoholism; my husband and I found ourselves in a three year custody battle over their children. I pulled myself out of the job market. I know my family needed me. Life was full with 5 children, but I ached to meet new people and feel a part of the community and make a difference. Little did I know, PTA was just the anecdote for what started out innocently enough as the elementary publicity chair.

It has been a great journey and one that I've had little regret.