



ACPS 2016-17 Outstanding School Volunteers SCRIPT

- **ACPS 2016-17 Outstanding School Volunteers** were nominated by ACPS staff division-wide and were evaluated by the Office of School, Business and Community Partnerships.
- Outstanding Volunteer at the Elementary Level
For the first category, Outstanding Volunteer at the Elementary Level, we would like to recognize all the support, time and effort provided to ACPS by **Ms. Sharon Yandian**.
 - **Sharon Yandian** was nominated by Dr. Barbara Acosta, ACPS Dual Language Coordinator who joins us tonight to honor Sharon.
 - Principal Lee of John Adams is unable to be here tonight as she is with the Mayor celebrating CETA night at the school but she sends her regards attesting that this is certainly well deserved award.
 - Ms. Yandian has served on the John Adams Dual Language PTA Committee and the division-wide Dual Language Advisory Committee for the past several years. In this role, she has demonstrated outstanding leadership.
 - As many of you are aware, Sharon has, on multiple occasions, led parents' efforts to write letters and testify before the school board to support the transform of the dual language program into a robust and thriving educational endeavor.
 - She has also worked with other parents, staff and administrators to generally improve family and community engagement across ACPS. In fact, she was one of the first people to reach out to me five years ago when I was still rolling out the FACE Center. Her knowledge of the community and of quality educational programs, passion and advocacy has served us all. On behalf of the Office of EL and the Dual Language Program, John Adams Elementary and all ACPS staff, students and families, thank you Sharon.
- Outstanding Volunteer at the Middle School Level
Our Outstanding Volunteer at Middle School Level could not be here tonight but we want to give a shout out to **Ms. Kathy Stenzel**.
 - **Kathy Stenzel**, nominated by GW Middle School principal Jesse Mazur, has served the GW community in a multitude of ways, including the coordination of staff appreciation activities and Wellness events, arranging visits by local government members to help increase support for the school and conducting community outreach with neighborhood organizations to include and support parental involvement of underrepresented populations.
 - Kudos for all your hard work Ms. Stenzel. We appreciate you and will make certain your award gets to you!
- Outstanding Volunteer at the High School Level
For our Outstanding Volunteer at the High School Level, we recognize **Ms. Jennifer Veech**.
 - Jennifer Veech was nominated by Patricia Braun of the TC Williams College and Career Center and she and principal Dingle join us tonight to honor Ms. Veech.
 - Ms. Veech, a professional writer/editor, volunteers to assist T.C seniors with their college essays twice a week during all lunch periods. Her 16 weekly sessions are always filled and there is often a waitlist. Although there are professionals throughout



the building who can assist with college essays, the leading issue is time. Ms. Veechoffers thoughtful one-on-one assistance and feedback and her added experience of working at the college level makes her expertise highly valuable for our students. Thank you so much Ms. Veech for the time you take to help our students to pursue their goals of post-secondary education.

- Outstanding Organizational Volunteer

Next we recognize the Outstanding Organizational Volunteer which goes to the **Lyles Crouch PTA**.

- **Lyles-Crouch PTA** is represented tonight by PTA President Lauren Bishop and is joined by Principal Dr. Zissios. If there are other PTA members here, please also join us.
- Lyles-Crouch PTA is a vibrant and highly engaged organization with members who have varied skills that they eagerly contribute to the school.
- The PTA strengthens Lyles-Crouch's character education program by supporting monthly student-centered community service projects and they raise money for the school to enhance instruction and provide tutoring support with in-house programs. They sponsor after school programs that involve over 300 students during the school year. In addition, the PTA supports and celebrates the staff by helping in classrooms, giving staff recognition celebrations, and organizing school community events that include students, staff, and parents. Every student and staff member in the building has certainly been positively impacted by the Lyles-Crouch PTA. Thank you so much for all you do!

- Outstanding Corporate Volunteer

Last we have our Outstanding Corporate Volunteer of the year award which goes to the Marriott Residence Inn.

- **Marriott** is represented tonight by members of its management team Melissagale Lechelt, Anne Daknis, and Edwin Peters and they are joined by Jim Cooney of TC Williams Career and Transition Services and Dr. Theresa Werner, Director of Specialized Instruction and TC Williams Principal Dr. Dingle.
- Marriott Residence Inn provides valuable experiences for our high school students with special needs. Thanks to the Marriott team, our students are provided opportunities to work at the Marriott's Concierge Front Lobby, in Housekeeping, Laundry Maintenance, Houseman Support, at the Breakfast Bar and Gatehouse Dining areas.
- With the guidance and support provided by this stellar team, our students not only gain confidence in completing specific job-related tasks, but they also learn key skills, which include using public transportation, being punctual, dressing appropriately for work, and engaging socially in the workplace.
- It is truly a wonderful feeling to see the self-confidence and self-determination our students have gained along with the specific job skills they have learned. Without a doubt, they look forward to going to work like never before. The Marriott Residence Inn team has truly raised the bar for inclusive practices. On behalf of ACPS, TC Williams, Specialized Instruction and our students with disabilities, thank you so very much for all you do!



There were many great nominations this year and the choices were very difficult. On behalf of ACPS I'd like to thank the **1000+ parents and community members** who are active volunteers in our school buildings and programs.