



December marks the season of giving as well as celebrating the end of the calendar year. I can say 2018 has been a fairly busy year not only in my PTA world but also in my personal life. Preparing to celebrate my daughter's graduation from UNC Wilmington this month is very exciting and busy too. I firmly believe in the mission of PTA which is "to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities and to advocate for all children." It is the guiding principal of what I do on behalf of PTA while working with the board of directors of the Council to explore strategies on how we can encourage our schools and their communities to be engaged and increase parent involvement.

As parents, PTA and PTSA members and volunteers we are engaged with our children and youth's schools hoping to make differences

in the lives of all children. It is sometimes easy to forget in the daily rush that everything we do as PTA and PTSA member should be geared around the PTA mission.

As parents we want the best for our children and youth. It is our goal at the local level to provide support to the students, teachers and their families so that the education of the student is brought strongly focus. As PTA/PTSA members and awesome volunteers some of the things that we can do each day include having a presence in our schools, advocating for programs, reading in classrooms, helping to volunteer during a bookfair in the library, providing small treat to staff members and to volunteer with your PTA's and PTSA's they need each of you to join but to help. This would make a huge impact. Hopefully, these are the things community members and administrator know about your PTAs and PTAs. Do not forget to invite your community leaders, School Board of Education and County Commissioners to volunteer at your schools. They may even like to become a PTA/PTSA member.

On the behalf of the Guilford County Council of PTAs I thank each of you for volunteering and being an advocate for all children and youth. organization. The Guilford County Council had a great year, we hosted some excellent Free trainings including 990 IRS trainings, S.P.I.C.E grant and Reflections trainings.

In addition, we continue to reach out to our local PTA/PTSA leaders to offer FREE training and support and we are planning the next leadership training through our Council PTA University Winter checkup training being held on January 22, 2019! Be on the lookout via Member hub and let us know that you're coming!

As your president I am excited about the things that we look forward to in 2019. Great job on all that you do not only for your child(ren) but for every child and youth!

Shirrell Williams

Guilford County Council of PTAs President.