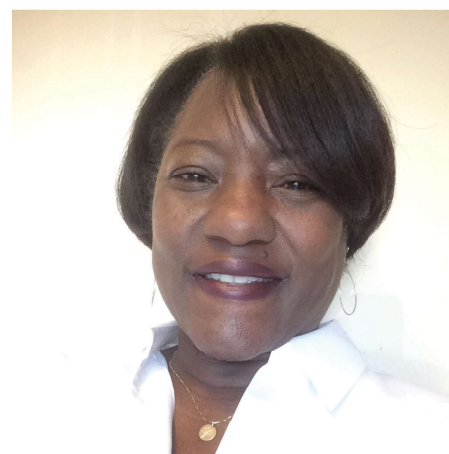




Connectivity: Important and Necessary

We'll be highlighting one of our Military Student Transition Consultants in each issue. Amanda Woodyard is serving our students in Prince William County Schools, Virginia.



MCEC Military Student Transition Consultants (MSTC) serve in school districts as navigators and advocates for military-connected students and their families as they transition in or out of schools.

As a military spouse and mother, Amanda Woodyard has always taken pride in providing support and resources for service members and their families. "The military lifestyle comes with very unique challenges and being an available resource is critical," shared Amanda. Prior to becoming an MSTC, Amanda worked with the Military Family Support Center at Bolling AFB and the Washington Navy Yard. There she developed a partnership with Hayfield Secondary and MCEC to start a MCEC *Student 2 Student* program.

Amanda visits each of her schools multiple times a

important and necessary."

As a mother of two military children, Amanda has witnessed their struggles to live in their new normal and understands that solutions and resources come in all shapes and sizes. She knows that while installations and many organizations do a great job supporting military service members and their spouses, MCEC focuses on the child. Amanda is able to use resources from MCEC, the community, and military installations. Since the majority of her students do not live on the military installation, using the community resources provide complete wraparound services for students and their families.

Amanda would strongly encourage a student who is unsure about seeing an MSTC to at least have an initial

“The military lifestyle comes with very unique challenges and being an available resource is critical.”

week and works closely with small groups of students on a monthly basis. "Parent deployments can be extremely disruptive for a family and children don't always handle having an absent parent very well," shared Amanda. "Providing support becomes an important outlet for students to express their feelings." Amanda has noticed that students are almost always receptive when someone shows concern and take an interest in their well-being. Listening to a student can be one of the easiest and most important things someone can do. **"If you can gain their trust, they become open and receptive to receive guidance and advice,"** explained Amanda. **"Connectivity for military students is**

conversation. She believes students will see the benefit once they take the first step and says, "the MSTC is relatable, speaks the military language, and provides the warm reception a student needs to feel comfortable and at ease when discussing their concerns and challenges."

"Through the years, I have seen students struggle academically and socially because the constant family transitions make it difficult to start over time and time again," says Amanda. "My goal is to provide a warm hand-off for new students and provide them with school and community resources to ease their transition."

For more information about MSTCs, visit: www.MilitaryChild.org/MSTC



MSTC

military student
transition consultant™

A Military Child Education Coalition® Initiative

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CONVOY OF SUPPORT



AMANDA WOODYARD, Military Student Transition Consultant, and Nana, *Student 2 Student* (S2S) member, met three years ago at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, Virginia. Amanda and Nana's bond strengthened when they attended the 2016 National Training Seminar Student Summit. "Nana represented Hayfield S2S at the Student Summit. She gave a moving speech at the VIP reception," shared Amanda.

Cortez Dial, Ed.D, associate professor at Virginia State University and an MCEC Board Member, heard Nana's story at the reception and offered to give Amanda and Nana a personal tour of the university. This was Nana's first college tour. "I was thinking about going to a community college, but then I met Mr. Cortez Dial," she shared. Nana described the tour as a remarkable experience, and Amanda added, "The personal attention Dr. Dial afforded Nana was invaluable. She came away with direction and the confidence to move forward in her college pursuit."

Nana's goal is to become a counselor to help others. She is co-leader of her S2S team and also a member of the *Black Women Round Table*. Nana said her favorite part of the S2S program "is giving new students opportunities that I never had as a new student."