



Stepping up to **LEAD**

A family of Student to Student leaders



even teach.” S2S allows Freddie to develop the skills to achieve his greatest accomplishments. “The program has taught me how to be open and communicate with any type of person. To be able to step up in a situation where no one else wants to be a leader,” shared Freddie. “I attended a local booster training where I learned about the struggles of a military child and how they feel.”

The S2S team at Shoemaker High School in Killeen, Texas, is extremely involved in community service. They

for their school environment, the ability to develop leadership skills and be seen as a leader, and to learn to succeed on a national stage,” Central shared the reasons for encouraging his children to join S2S. **“They all influence each other and enjoy being a part of the organization.”**

College, career, and life readiness is important to Freddie’s parents. Central expressed the importance of opportunities like the MCEC National Training Seminar, which two of his children have already attended. “At

Going into his fifth year

as a member, Freddie, a civilian student, was the third student in his family to join the MCEC *Student 2 Student* (S2S) program. For Freddie, joining the program was a natural move because of all the great experiences his siblings had. He also saw how well his siblings were doing in school, and he also wanted to do well. Once he got involved with S2S, however, he realized how much he had in common with the goals of the program.

In addition to S2S, Freddie is in band, football, track and field, and he is going to be running for class officer this year. He is also in all Advanced Placement classes this school year. Ultimately, Freddie wants to be a professional musician. “I play the tuba. I want to go to college and finish with a doctorate degree so I can be recognized, and

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adopted Elms Road and regularly clean up any litter on the road. The team helps out with school-sponsored events and any local service needs. Freddie spoke about making wreaths to put on graves. The team is also active in welcoming new students — civilian and military. **“I tell them to sit with me and introduce them to my friends and other military kids.”**

Central, Freddie’s father, saw S2S as an opportunity for his children to be ambassadors to their school. “Pride

the national level you begin to get a deeper understanding of what needs to be done,” shared Central. “For college packets, all eyes are going to look at this, not just people at your school. You have to ask, ‘Are you prepared for that?’” Willingness to meet new people and interact with others are skills Central and his wife work hard to teach Freddie and their other children. “They need to learn to advocate for themselves and others. To be able to walk that line of being a student and a community leader.”