**4. Most Impactful Member Service: Sylvia "Jeanne" Johnson**

AmeriCorps State member Sylvia "Jeanne" Johnson is nominated for the Most Impactful Member Service category of the 2018 Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards. Jeanne is nominated by Emily Pratt ([emily@educationalliance.org](mailto:emily@educationalliance.org)), AmeriCorps Program Director for The Education Alliance’s AmeriCorps on the Frontline of School Success program. AmeriCorps on the Frontline connects at risk-students with local mentors to help students grow in meaningful ways, particularly in the areas of attendance, behavior, and course performance.

Jeanne, a retired teacher who wanted to continue serving her community, recently completed her third term as an AmeriCorps on the Frontline mentor at North Elementary School in Elkins, West Virginia. Over the past three years, Jeanne has mentored 75 students in grades 3-6. By inspiring these students to improve their attendance, behavior and course performance, Jeanne has made a huge impact on the school she serves and the greater community of Elkins.

She uses creative strategies to teach her students about not only in school, but life lessons as well. She helps the students set goals to improve their school experience and provides incentives for achieving those goals. For example, Jeanne has agreed to do jumping jacks for each time a student has perfect attendance for the week.

Jeanne believes that “every young person should have the opportunity to experience the magic of music.” In order to reduce stress and promote calmness, Jeanne created a music club for her mentees where students learn the history of and how to play a Mountain Dulcimer. The sweet healing sound of the Dulcimer is reminiscent of the Bagpipe with a history dating back to early settlers of the Appalachian region.

She has been instrumental in planning numerous field trips that expose her students to college and career opportunities. A few examples of the field trips include Davis and Elkins College, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and the Fox Forrest Wildlife Management Area. Before going on a field trip, Jeanne teaches the students vocabulary words the guide will use to better understand the trip.

The words of one of her students who started the year off saying “I would rather stay home with Mom” shows the true impact of Jeanne’s service. At the end of the year the student wrote in her journal, “I love school now! Ms. Jeanne taught me to try harder. The harder I try the better I do in school.”

Jeanne has not only been a great mentor to the students she serves, but also to other new AmeriCorps members just starting the program. Jeanne’s experience, love for children, and willingness to help makes her a perfect mentor. She is truly getting things done for America and is the perfect example impactful service.

This submission is by Quinten Burton of The Education Alliance on behalf of Emily Pratt, ), AmeriCorps Program Director for The Education Alliance’s AmeriCorps on the Frontline of School Success program.