



9:00 am – 2:00 pm Plan

Make that Project/Idea Work!

During this workshop, we will assist your team to incubate a project/idea that you would like to develop for your local PTA. You will incubate your idea using a simple logic model. Your logic model or action plans will outline concrete outcomes/solutions. You will carry it back to your local PTA and clearly communicate your project goals and rationale and build support with your PTA and community. You will have focused time for collaboration and participate in successful planning to implement. This session is an all-day event. You will be able to take a break and attend another workshop of your choosing, but then return to finish your project/idea.

Presenters: Greg Hobbs, President, Linda Vernon Leadership Development Director

9:00 am Workshop Session 1

Partnerships: Your PTA and the School Community

Where can anyone find an opportunity to impact a child’s world as easily and as well as in a school or home, helping children to grow and develop, while influencing, engaging, and making an impact on their education at its foundation? Moreover, who is more capable of guiding families and communities through that process? You!!! Join us while we unpack these questions and more.

Presenter: Carolyn McCarty, Past President (2021-2023), Illinois PTA

Maximizing Family Engagement with PTA Programs

Join us in our dynamic workshop, "Maximizing Family Engagement with PTA Programs." Discover the art of maximizing family engagement through innovative PTA programs designed to foster meaningful connections and enhance the educational journey. In this interactive session, you will hear real-world examples, actionable insights, and gain the tools to create impactful initiatives that not only strengthen the school community but also empower families to play a pivotal role

Presenter: Kristin Kramer, Vice President of Programs, Jamie Kerin- Whiting, Family and Community Engagement Director

10:00 am Workshop Session 2

Nurturing Resilience: Effective Communication with Children Dealing with Stress and Trauma

In the journey of parenting, it's essential to address the challenges that children face, including stress and trauma. This presentation focuses on the significance of open and sensitive communication between parents and children in these situations. By establishing a safe space for dialogue, parents can help their children navigate stress and trauma, fostering resilience and emotional well-being.

Presenter: Lisa Ward, Educator UP Consultant

Families - Full STEAM Ahead

Engaging in hands-on STEAM activities at home provides opportunities for families to communicate, explore, problem solve, and create together. Roll up your sleeves for this interactive workshop as we race airplanes, catapult marshmallows, and build a tower from spaghetti. We’ll brainstorm ways to best share these activities with your school community.

Presenter: Peggy Staehlin, Illinois PTA Secretary

E’s on Down the Road... ENGAGE, EMPOWER, ENERGIZE Your PTA

Workshop Description

11:00 am Workshop Session 3

Eat. Move. Save.

The University of Illinois Extension office will be demonstrating how to provide your children with healthier after-school snacks at an affordable price. Some recipes are kid friendly and will give you the opportunity to work with your kids at home so they can make their own or help make their after-school snacks. The workshop will also give you a lot of resources for planning affordable nutritional meals, how to shop wisely, and how to get your family more physically active. This workshop was made possible through a grant from Yum-O. Our sincere thanks to them for helping us to promote Healthy Lifestyles for Families.

Presenter: U of I Extension Team

Givebacks Takes the Guesswork Out of PTA Compliance

Givebacks is an online tool designed to help you run your PTA and is provided for free by Illinois PTA. Join us for this workshop to learn the basics of completing your compliance submissions in Givebacks. From paying your dues to completing your audit, IRS and bylaws submissions, we will help you make sure all your t’s are crossed, and I’s are dotted to stay in good standing with Illinois PTA. Presenter: Kristin Kramer, Vice President of Programs

1:00 pm Workshop Session 4

Creating a Parent Kit for Children's Stress Relief and Calming: Exploring Essential Tools

In today's fast-paced world, children often face stress and anxiety, making it crucial for parents to provide effective tools for their emotional well-being. This presentation delves into the concept of a "Parent Kit" designed to help kids destress and find calm. We will explore a range of valuable tools that parents can incorporate into their children's lives to promote relaxation and emotional resilient

Presenter: Lisa Ward, Educator UP Consultant

PTA101: Your Road to Success

OMG, what did I sign up for? Don’t worry, we are here to help! This workshop is designed to give you the keys you need for you and your PTA to succeed. From learning about our beginnings to understanding your role in today’s PTA, all attendees will leave better prepared to lead their PTA and school community forward this school year.

Presenter: Carolyn McCarty, Past President (2021-2023), Illinois PTA

2:00 pm Workshop Session 5

Grants: How does Grant Writing Fit into my PTA/PTSA’s fundraising plan?

Why should your PTA apply for grants? What can grants be used for? Is it hard to apply? We will answer these questions, provide resources for finding grant opportunities, and walk through the basics for applying. There is money out there for PTAs, what are you waiting for?

Presenter: Carolyn McCarty, Past President (2021-2023), Illinois PTA

Welcome to Thrive: The PTA Volunteer Learning Community

Thrive is PTA’s new online learning community for volunteers. Thrive brings PTA leadership development to you. Through Thrive’s engaging, short courses, you can take training at your own time and place—even from football practice, a dance studio or a soccer field.

Presenter: Kristin Kramer, Vice President of Programs