

Michelle Tyler

I am a married mother of 3 children. I have always been involved in my community but I began my journey in special education when my youngest son was diagnosed with autism at 3 years old in 2004. I was a member of my district PTA, I helped to create the Special Education Parent Advisory Group in my district and I was very involved in my county Family Support Organization, just to name a few community projects.

My connection with SPAN started in 2007 but I didn't begin my employment there until 2011. Joining the staff as a trainer for the southern counties in New Jersey was the foundation to all of the work that I have done at SPAN. During that same year, I joined the START-EPSD project and continued my love of assisting families obtain meaningful involvement in community groups. I also worked at SPAN as a Family Resource Specialist, Parent 2 Parent Peer and as a trainer on SPAN's Special Education Volunteer Advocates program (SEVA). SEVA was a wonderful way to help families and professionals build their capacity by learning to assist families to advocate for their children's needs.

My current roles are as an Associate Director on CPIR and Co-Director on NE-PACT. This has been a great opportunity to provide technical assistance to Parent Centers and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers. I feel like I have come full circle at SPAN and I really love the work SPAN does for families, schools and communities.