



Pam Smith

Title:

Associate Vice
President, Youth
Development

Facility name:

YMCA of Greater
Richmond

**How long they've
been a customer:**

Six years

**For more
information:**

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The Sky is the Limit

■ **Why did you decide to partner with BellXcel?**
■ **As in, what problem were you looking to solve or what solution were you looking to incorporate?** In 2016, the YMCA of Greater Richmond made a strategic decision to incorporate more evidence-based programs at our Richmond City School sites. At that time, YMCA of the USA had began partnering with BellXcel to implement Power Scholars Academy programs across the country. We started with one small academy at one school and have since grown to serve four districts and thousands of scholars.

What are the benefits to your organization as a result of this partnership? Our YMCA benefits greatly from our partnership with BellXcel. The team is knowledgeable, solution-driven and scholar-focused. Our team loves the ease of access to tools and materials with the new platform and we appreciate the constant support from the BellXcel team.

What does your staff enjoy most about utilizing BellXcel? Our team loves the social emotional support that comes through use of the program. We believe when scholars are confident in themselves, it translates into success in the classroom.

We want to help our scholars improve academically, but also improve socially. We recognize the focus BellXcel puts on social emotional learning, and it aligns beautifully with our desire to support the whole child.

Have you been pleasantly surprised by working with BellXcel in any way? There have been many times over our six-year history with BellXcel that I have been pleasantly surprised. They go above and beyond to value their partners and to support the work that is happening on the ground. During the summer of 2020, we were furiously packing curriculum and the BellXcel team offered to drive down from Baltimore to help us meet our deadline. While we didn't take them up on it, we knew they were sincere in their desire to make it happen for the scholars.

Why should other YMCA professionals consider partnering with BellXcel? Our partnership with BellXcel has been a blessing to our association. It has given us a voice in the community as a partner in education. We would not be serving so many students without the support of BellXcel. We also look forward to implementing the afterschool Explorers curriculum. The sky is the limit.