

In September of this year, I was given the immaculate honor of visiting Washington, D.C. to take part in the National Association for the Education of Young Children's interview process for their Student Board Member position. Being among the top four potential candidates for that role motivated me to continue my passion and drive towards becoming a more active, influential, and effective member of this organization that is changing the future for early childhood education. I have done this through research and study of our field, the issues we face, and the best Developmentally Appropriate Practices for the children we care for while also focusing in on aspects of curriculum, staff qualifications, and the needs of young children as a whole.

Currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in Child Development from Ashford University, I am proud to say I am a member of the International Honor Society, placing me at the top 15% of my class. However, as we all know, knowledge isn't only gained in a classroom setting. My experiences in childcare and working with young children for the past five years has equipped me with the skillset needed to be an effective leader, educator, and program coordinator. Earlier this year, I accepted a job position as an Assistant Director of Little Learners Childcare, a center based in Romeo, Michigan. Less than four months later, I was given the title of Center Director.

My ability to educate young minds, coach my teaching staff, and make those dire connections with the parents in my center allowed me to move up to this new position. As the Center Director, I am proud to say that while I have definitely worked for this career, I will always have more to learn. That is what I hope to bring to NAEYC's Michigan affiliate; the love of always learning. I view myself as a positive, open-minded person who enjoys the struggles that arise when solving various problems. I am not afraid to lend a helping hand or ask for one and know there is always so much more for me to see, do, and- of course, learn. As a Governing

Board Member, I will use my experience, personal philosophies, and drive to support the Association and continue to grow myself as an early childhood professional.

As someone who began her early childhood career as an Assistant Teacher and climbed the ladder to Center Director, I have gained immense leadership skills. Managing a staff of almost twenty people has taught me how to listen to all opinions, evaluate, and execute the proper steps for issues ranging from policy changes down to classroom cleaning lists. I enjoy knowing my staff sees me as not only a 'boss,' but also a friend they can rely on and go to when stress becomes too much. This juggling act I have of being both leader and friend would enhance my position on the board for I would be able to do just that for my Board Members. I will be that person who will build others up but also be the one to aid in problem-solving, give guidance, and use my knowledge and experience with young children to make decisions.