

Candidate Statement:

*Interest in serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board, (2) Knowledge, skills and abilities that would contribute to a Governing Board position. (3) Specific examples of how experiences related to governance and leadership would enhance your position on the board.*

I have a vested interest in serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board for several reasons. First and foremost, it will allow me to grow professionally. I have been a member of multiple advisory boards throughout my career in Early Childhood and being one who is both a visionary and a problem-solver, feel I have a lot to offer. Second, my current position as coordinator and lead faculty for ECE at Bay College, I am taking the program through NAEYC Accreditation and with that comes a growing focus on professionalism and advocacy. Thus, being a part of the restructure and growth of our UP Chapter Association body is mutually beneficial. My students will not only have an active chapter to be a part of but my hope is that they will also have a greater opportunity for student leadership as we encourage professionalism across the UP's landscape of Early Childhood. Further, the inclusion and "voice" of professionals from all areas of the field allows my students to better understand the many ECE opportunities available to them in their professional pursuits and allows me to better prepare them for the workplace.

I have a wealth of experience from my career that prepares me to contribute to the Governing Board. I have worked in and around the Early Childhood field in a variety of focus areas including: Infant mental health, child care expulsion prevention, social-emotional supports, reflective supervision, home visiting, program quality & assessment, state and federally-funded preschool, GSRP monitoring & coaching, educator training, grant management, advisory leadership and collaboration across agencies and systems, advocate for children, families and ECE professionals and proponent of high quality, standard-aligned higher education. I am able to examine issues through a full spectrum lens of experience which provides me with unique insight. My fierce belief that we are stronger through collaboration blended with a strengths-based approach, has encouraged a mindset of collective cooperation in our area between professionals, agencies, systems and funding sources.