

Thank you for taking the time to review my application to represent the SE Chapter as your member at large. I took a sabbatical from my career to raise my granddaughters two years ago. In 2016 I graduated from The George Washington University with my ECSE Education Specialist degree and an Administration Credential. My courses primarily focused on principals' leadership, researching how teachers can improve CLASS scores and children with adverse life experiences. My family moved from Virginia/DC area to Southern California, and now we have settled down in Harrison Township, Michigan.

My work for over 25 years has primarily been working for and volunteering for non-profit organizations. My knowledge of association management and NAEYC accreditation in various early childhood education settings will provide a perspective of accessibility and membership focused. I've held different governing positions from Chapter President of the Des Moines Iowa AEYC to VP of Membership for Northern Virginia AEYC. I continue to reconnect and develop my work as a play coach with Dr. Walter Drew and the NAEYC Play Policy Committee.

Over time I have strengthened organizations to increase quality and enhance leadership within the group. In my most recent position as Executive Director of Seven Corners Children's Center, I worked with the team to restructure the program to include a mentally healthy classroom lens. This collaborative work also had a community partnership that helped fund child development specialists to observe, coach, and consult with staff and families. We enhanced the program to incorporate monthly parent meetings called Family Cafes. The Family Cafe focus included leadership development, translations in Spanish and Arabic for families, material to help support the link between school and home, childcare during meetings, and a meal for all participants and children. The program grew in families from the center, including other families from the parent group's community. The accomplishments during each Cafe deepened the protective factors for every participant and are worth replication at some point in our future.

We are in a unique time in our history. I want to help Michigan AEYC serve the members during this new stage of reopening during a pandemic. I'm willing to participate in a way that supports the mission and values of being a highly inclusive professional organization. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with questions.