



Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children

Candidate Name: **Carmin Issa**

Employment Information: **Assistant Director of PEDALS, Michigan**

- 1) Why are you interested in serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board?

I am interested in serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board in hopes to strengthen my capacity in supporting the well-being of early childhood educators. It is also an opportunity for me to be intentional in my advocacy for the Early Childhood field. The ability to create space with a diverse group of professionals that have the same mission in mind will strengthen my impact in the communities I serve.

- 2) Please share any relevant professional and/or volunteer experiences within the past five years that would be applicable for this role.

I have had 11 years of leadership experience, including 6 years as an Education Specialist, where I managed daily operations across 5 sites and 8 pre-school classrooms. I volunteered with the local school district to create literacy-focused parenting sessions. As a CLASS Specialist with Teachstone I became certified in four age levels of the CLASS tool and trained over 200 educators. 76% of whom became reliable. Promoted to Assistant Director at my current organization, I still support Social Emotional Coaches who work in birth-5 educators in Metro Detroit. Through this role, we've impacted 300+ classrooms and built partnerships with various agencies.

- 3) Please share your knowledge, skills and abilities that would contribute to serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board.

My bachelor's in early childhood laid the foundation for my career, while my Master's in Guidance & Development enhanced my ability to support adults. I've completed Practice Based Coaching courses and am a certified Trauma Smart facilitator. These professional development opportunities have helped shape empathetic relationships and a leadership style that has created result-driven goals.

- 4) Please share your experience related to governance and leadership that would be applicable to this role.

I aggregate data and strategically plan for increasing impact daily in my current role. I contribute to strategic planning and grant making processes. I have had the privilege of leading teams of 16, and now 7 and helped shape their leadership. In my current role, we utilize strategic planning to establish structures and policies to ensure operational excellence.