



Michigan Association for the
Education of Young Children

Candidate Name: Jennifer Wixson

Employment Information: ECE Professor and Program Coordinator, North Central Michigan College

I am honored to be considered for the role of President-Elect of the Michigan AEYC Governing Board. Over the past several years, my service on the board has deepened my commitment to the early childhood profession and strengthened my belief in the power of advocacy, collaboration, and strategic leadership to drive meaningful change. I'm excited about the opportunity to help lead MiAEOYC into its next chapter—honoring its legacy while building a bold, inclusive future for Michigan's early childhood educators, children, and families.

With over 30 years of experience in early childhood education, I bring a comprehensive and personal understanding of the field—from direct service to systems-level leadership. Prior to my career in higher education, I served as a Kindergarten and First Grade teacher, a Head Start teacher, and a child care program director. These positions established the foundation for my lifelong passion to support young children, families, and the professionals who care for them. Today, as a professor and program coordinator at North Central Michigan College, I prepare future educators while leading innovative, community-based initiatives that expand access to high-quality, affordable child care—particularly in rural communities.

During my two terms as a Member-at-Large on the MiAEOYC Governing Board, I have contributed to the Membership and Nominating Committees. These experiences have deepened my connection to MiAEOYC's mission and the wider early childhood community across our state. I value this work and am committed to building upon it in the role of President-Elect. My professional endeavors include leading the NCMC Child Care Initiative, which involves engaging employers and community partners to support the early childhood workforce and promote sustainable, locally tailored child care solutions. I have authored successful grants, including MiLeap's Family Friendly Campus award, and have spearheaded the development of the Employer Engagement Pilot Program and NCMC Early Learning Center, set to launch in 2025.

My governance experience includes chairing curriculum committees, leading strategic planning processes, and ensuring program alignment with NAEYC's Professional Preparation Standards and Michigan's Core Knowledge and Competencies. I have developed courses on ethical leadership, professional development, curriculum, and child guidance, and I regularly partner with regional and state-level organizations to promote best practices and policy alignment.

I bring to this role a strategic vision, strong collaboration skills, and a systems-thinking approach. I am committed to equity and inclusion, amplifying underrepresented voices, and creating space for innovation. I understand the significance of a participatory board culture grounded in transparency, trust, and shared purpose. If elected President-Elect, I will bring energy, focus, and deep respect for the professionals who strengthen our field. I look forward to working alongside the Executive Director, board members, and membership to advance MiAEOYC's mission, support Michigan's early childhood workforce, and ensure that every child has access to high-quality care and education.