



Michigan Association for the
Education of Young Children

Candidate Name: Jennifer Reynolds
Employment Information: Education Specialist, Independent Consultant
Board Position Applied for: Secretary

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

As someone who began teaching preschool in the 1990s, I started out feeling underqualified and unsure of myself as a leader. Early on, I found my way to a Midwest AEYC regional conference held locally in Des Moines, Iowa. Sitting in the opening session with keynote speaker Bev Bos, I remember thinking, "Yes, this is where I'm supposed to be!" That moment felt like the right starting place for me in early childhood education, and I want to ensure that same kind of "right start" is available to others who are new to the field and looking for guidance and leadership development.

Leaders in the field encouraged me to get involved, and through my earlier work with Association Management and the National Association for Family Child Care, NAFCC, I came to understand that this work is truly grassroots connections; putting in the time, you get out of it what you put into it. Over the years, I have served on several local and state boards. The greatest joy I've found along the way is knowing I played a small part in changing the trajectory of the profession and making a real impact on the futures of children, families, and educators.

Now, I am at a point in my life where I deeply value the commitment and responsibility that come with a governing board position. I am ready to volunteer my time, experience, and energy to help the association strengthen early childhood education and, in doing so, support future generations of early educators.