

**Kathy Thompson**  
**Candidate Statement**

**Educational Background**

I received my Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education; my Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies and my Master of Arts degree in Education. In addition I have a Clear California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and a Clear Administrative Services Credential.

**Professional Experience**

I have been employed by the Shasta County Office of Education for 26 years. I have been an Administrator for 24 years, working in Early Childhood Education, Special Education and Alternative Education serving children from birth to 12th grade.

**Early Childhood Organization Participation and/or Involvement with AEYC (local, state, or national level)**

I have been a member of AEYC for more than 20 years. I served three terms as President for the California Cascades Affiliate, I served as CAEYC Conference Chair for three years, and was the CAEYC Treasurer for a two-year term from 2013-2015. I also served as Secretary for the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) Northern Section board from 2010-2013.

**Leadership Experience**

Currently 40% of my assignment is leading the Shasta/Tehama County Early Intervention Team. We serve infants/toddlers birth to age three years who have special needs. We do intensive early intervention and work with families in their home. We work in coordination with Far Northern Regional Center and I have seen firsthand the difference these providers make in the lives of young children and their families. It can be emotionally intensive, but I am extremely proud of the sensitive; professional and supportive team that I lead in this endeavor.

**Diversity and Inclusion Experience**

I work with children and students from Birth to 12th grade in a variety of settings. We serve special needs students with emotional disabilities, infants and toddlers with special needs and students in alternative educational settings including the Shasta County Juvenile Court School. We serve a high population of students from poverty and students with mental health issues. During my career I have served a diverse population and pride myself on being culturally sensitive.

**Contribution to CAEYC**

I served as a Board member in my local affiliate in many different Board roles throughout the years since the 1980s. I also served as local Affiliate President for three terms.

I have had the good fortune of having experience on the CAEYC Board both as Conference Chair and as Treasurer. I have prior experience as the CCDAA Northern Section Secretary for over three years. I believe my strengths are building relationships, generating ideas, problem solving and following through with commitments.

**Vision for CAEYC**

I believe that CAEYC is a vital voice in the Child Development field in a time of change in our country. CAEYC is strong in advocacy, professional development and membership support. I hope to help influence others to become involved and to take action at a time when our lawmakers need to support

the efforts of Early Educators because the research data clearly provides evidence that children birth to eight years benefit from a quality early childhood education. I want to see our children have healthy outcomes and I want to see Early Educators get the support and recognition they deserve.