

Adria Taha-Resnick
Candidate Statement

Educational Background:

I received my Bachelor's in Child Development from California State University, Sacramento and my Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia St. Paul. I am completing Doctoral degree in education in May 2019.

Professional Experiences:

I have gained valuable experience in early childhood education by working with infants through school age children in multiple capacities. I have been in the early childhood field for more than 20 years and had served in numerous roles including teacher, administrator, trainer/consultant and college educator. I currently teach at California State University, Channel Islands in the Early Childhood Studies department. I stay current in theory and implementation and my main focus is in leadership and administration. Teaching new teachers how valuable their roles are and how professionalism can elevate the early childhood field as a whole is something I value tremendously.

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

I am a long time member of AEYC and have supported its vision through participation on the local and state level. Most recently, I completed my term as Vice President of CAAEYC (2018) and prior to that, I served as the professional development chair with CAAEYC. I served as President of Ventura County AEYC (2011-2013) and am proud to have grown the affiliate through trying times to become a strong, large member Board. I am currently the Past President and continue to support and be involved with its mission. In addition, I am Chair of the Ventura County Local Planning Council. Serving on the LPC has given me numerous opportunities to work with many agencies throughout the county and serve the field through the annual Provider Forum, Infant Toddler Symposium, Accreditation recognition, Celebrate the Child, strategic planning and Week of the Young Child activities. At the State level, I have gotten involved with understanding the relationships that filter through the affiliates and am on the CAAEYC conference committee.

Leadership Experience:

In 2010 I was elected as President of Ventura County AEYC and was looking forward to starting my term in July of 2011. The Board was struggling and small when a tragedy had me take office sooner. Without the term of President Elect to train me on my duties, I went full force to bring my vision to the Ventura County affiliate. I was able to not only bring the affiliate into the fold with other county agencies, but to ultimately grow the Board into a strong, determined group who valued our mission. Through my guidance, the Board was able to reach through the county and have a strong presence in the state as a strong affiliate. I was able to share my experiences at the CAAEYC conference while sitting on a panel that discussed how to aid and lead your affiliate. I am so proud that I was able to work with a great Board as a team to truly show how informative, involved and caring an affiliate can be. My leadership at the local level prepared me for working at the state level where I have served on the CAAEYC board for

four years on committees as well as being the Chair of professional development and holding office as CAAEYC Vice President.

Diversity and Inclusion Experience:

I became sensitive to diversity and inclusion working in a Title 1 school years ago and it continued through my years administering a very large program. Understanding so many diverse families was enlightening and rewarding. My doctoral studies have an emphasis in social justice where I have thoroughly examined how educators play a role in leading children and teachers to understanding our diverse world. Personally growing up in a multi-cultural family, I have always had an appreciation for the benefit that different cultures and backgrounds can make in the life of a child. I have continued by sharing my experiences and teaching college students how they too can impact the life of a child and their family through understanding and respect.

Contributions to CAAEYC: Please describe what contributions you would bring to the CAAEYC Board:

As a longtime member of AEYC I value the ways in which professionalism in the early childhood field is valued. I believe that with guidance and understanding, every person working with young children should understand their role as a leader. In small or large ways, every person can be an advocate for families and themselves. I hope to bring a climate of understanding professionalism and leadership through respect and information. I believe CAAEYC is a wonderful platform to reach so many and aid them in their own self-discovery of their leadership abilities.

Vision for CAAEYC:

I believe that in order for our members to provide high-quality programming, we must have exemplary professionals in the field. As a professional organization, CAAEYC can guide and support its members to achieve their goals to be highly qualified professionals. I enjoy being a part of the noble profession of early childhood educators and I hope to be a part of projecting this ideal to the state members.