

CAAEYC Candidate Statement Margaret (Margie) Costello-Chevis



1. Educational Background

My name is Margaret Costello-Chevis. I am applying for the Vice President CAAEYC Elected Officer for CAAEYC. I have been in the field of Early Care and Education for over thirty-five years. I received my Masters of Science in Education with an Early Childhood Emphasis at CSUEB in 2011, my B.A. in Liberal Studies Credential Track with an Early Childhood Emphasis at CSU, Hayward in 2000, and my A.A. Degree in Natural Science at Ohlone College in 1982. I am also an adjunct faculty member teaching Early Childhood Education Courses at Las Positas College and Chabot College since 2012.

2. Professional Experiences

My professional experience comes from working as an early childhood specialist for over 35 years from private schools to Lab schools at the local community colleges. For the past 22 years, I have taken on a passion for working with infants and toddlers as an early childhood specialist to teaching college courses. I have studied with PITC, RIE, and Pikler/LoczyUSA training, Beginning Together trainings, as well as, The Outdoor Classroom certificate program. One of my goals while pursuing and receiving my Master's Degree was to be able to work with college students. In working at the College Lab Schools and the California Early Childhood Mentor Program it has given me the opportunity to work with college students, as well as, work directly with the children. I really feel that my experience as a classroom teacher working directly with children has given me the opportunity to continue to gain knowledge of child development both with the children and as an ECE instructor.

CAAEYC Candidate Statement Margaret (Margie) Costello-Chevis

I have worked as a California Early Childhood Mentor Teacher for twelve years and have had the opportunity to work with over forty-eight Early Childhood Development Students as they continue their early childhood education at the two local colleges. I have also had the opportunity to work directly at Chabot College Child Development Center and Las Positas College Child Development Center in both of the Laboratory Schools. I also was able to work at the Child Development Center at CSU, Hayward as a California Early Childhood Mentor Teacher working as a lead teacher working with infants and toddlers. It is with great passion that I continue to grow and learn as an educator.

I am currently the College Coordinator for Las Positas College for the California Early Childhood Mentor Program.

I continue to work as an Infant and Toddler Program Director at LLESA Children's Center in Livermore, CA. I have been in this position for over six years where we provide care for children infants through school age for the employees of LLNL and Sandia.

3. Early Childhood Organization Participation and/or Involvement with AEYC chapter, state or national level).

I have been an active member of the East Bay Chapter, AEYC for the past 15+ years. I am currently the Past President 2021-2023 for the East Bay Chapter, President 2019-2021, and held other positions with East Bay Chapter in previous years Secretary. I have held the State Director position for the East Bay Chapter from 2019 to 2023. I am also on the CAAEYC conference committee for 2022 conference.

4. Leadership Experience

The leadership experience that I am most proud of was when I was a California Early Childhood Mentor Teacher, as an Early Childhood Specialist, at both Chabot College and Las Positas College. It was with great honor to work with college students as they continued their education in their practicum courses. It was an honor to work with forty-eight students during this time. It was also an honor to be at Chabot College when we were a PITC demonstration site. At that time, I also completed the PITC certification to be fully trained. I had the opportunity to work with a group of infants for the first five years of their lives. It was so special to develop the close relationships with the children and their families. It has been over 16 years since I had the pleasure of working with these children and I continue to communicate with some of the children.

5. Diversity and Inclusion Experience

As I think about diversity and inclusion, I think about all of the children, families, students, and colleagues that I have come in contact with. My professional experience when working with others, I think about how special and unique each person is that I have come in contact with throughout the years. I feel that it is important to be an active listener, provide support, and

CAAEYC Candidate Statement Margaret (Margie) Costello-Chevis

work through any conflicts with dignity and respect. A recent experience that I had was when I was teaching a course at the college where I had a student who was homeless and how I was able to support the student through diversity.

6. Contributions to CAAEYC

I believe with my experience and training, I would be able to share my knowledge of working with infants, toddlers and their families in a greater way through advocating for relationship-based care. My knowledge and understanding of college students will guide me in advocating for students and families.

7. Your vision for CAAEYC

My vision for CAAEYC is to continue to support early childhood education by being an advocate for children, families, and adults through a cultural lens.