

Candidate Statement

Gloria J. Davis

1) Educational Background

The field of early education has afforded me the opportunity to gain valuable experience and I am passionate about continuing to contribute to the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAEYC) and further the development as the leading early childhood organization. I have many years of experience working in the early childhood education as a teacher, director, trainer, and mentor. I hold a master's degree in Counseling psychology from National University, bachelor's degree of psychology from Talladega College, AL. Others include course work in Early Childhood Development UCLA, Los Angeles Southwest College and Certificate of Management for Childhood Education (MDECE) The Anderson Business of School UCLA.

2) Professional Experience

Currently, I am the Executive Director of the Girls Club of Los Angeles (GCLA), a nonprofit agency. I have been affiliated with GCLA since 1989 and, have served in various capacities including Board member and Board President. As Executive Director, I oversee an array of programs exemplifying the GCLA mission "to enrich the lives of children, youth and families through early education, youth development and community outreach which contributes to self-sufficient, stable and productive lives." Effectively organized and managed a preschool, grade school (K-3rd grade) and after school programs with strong financial management and oversight.

Our early education program has demonstrated compliance with nationally recognized criteria for high quality early childhood programs. One of the first early education centers in south Los Angeles to become National Association Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited and has maintained for over 20 years. This accomplishment has allowed me to become a stronger advocate and community change agent that focuses on meeting the needs of underserved children, youth, and their families.

3) Early Childhood Organization Participation and/or Involvement

Currently serving as CAAEYC Treasurer from July 2016 until June 2020 on the state level. Locally, serving as Southern California Chapter, President Elect since June 2018, and LA Metro Satellite Community since 2015. I have been a member of the NAEYC for over 25 years. Additionally, I have served on the CAAEYC Nomination and Conference committees.

4) Leadership Experience

I am honored and proud to have served as the CAAEYC Treasurer for 2 terms, prior to that I chaired, and helped revive the Accreditation Committee. During my leadership as chair on the Accreditation Committee I mentored my successor. It brings me great joy to serve my local community as President Elect of Southern California Chapter and the Co-Chair of Los Angeles Metro Satellite community. Through my leadership experience I have had the opportunity to focus on issues that are of great importance such as increase equity and access to services, inadequate funding in field, and closing the achievement gap for children of color, and changing the narrative of pipeline to prison to preschool to college. Developing and sustaining collaborative relationships has been key in my leadership role including work with First 5LA, Empowerment Congress, and Early Learning Alliance.

5) Diversity and Inclusion Experience

My professional experience in supporting diversity and inclusion has allowed me to bring together a multicultural, multigenerational, English-Spanish speaking team of cross-functional educators, parents, grandparents, and advocates. Diversity and inclusion are part of my core values and I have been a visible

champion for diversity and inclusion inside and outside my organization and the community by involving the board, senior leaders, managers, and collaborators.

6) Contribution to CAAEYC

I will continue to bring empathy, a sense of caring and a positive attitude while stressing the importance of self-respect and open communication with other board members and general membership. I share a strong commitment to the CAAEYC's vision, mission, philosophy, goals, and code of ethics. I bring over thirty years of professional experience in nonprofit management, with focus on early education programs including strategic, operational, and financial planning. I possess interpersonal skills such as active listening, teamwork and relationship building. I have dedicated my career to improving the quality of early education for children, families, and communities.

7) My Vision for CAAEYC

My vision for CAAEYC is to earn the right to be our members' first choice in a high performing, diverse and inclusive organization.

- For the organization to be a recognized leader in field of early education.
- To increase the diversity and inclusion with focus on increasing the representation of our members on every level of leadership.
- To leverage diversity for the growth of CAAEYC and the success of members and communities.
- To support the economic and social development of CAAEYC through leadership in research, strategic partnerships, donations, grants, and sponsorships.
- Enhancing and promoting newcomers (members) in the field of early education by providing advice and information.