

Indiana AEYC Governing Board Vice President-Elect



Dr. Mattie L. Solomon

Director of Early Childhood Education & Special Programs/Professor, Martin University

Efforts Working with Young Children and Families: As an education administrator and author, I have over 20 years of knowledge working with parents, communities, and children. As an administrator, my responsibilities included ensuring the development and provision of high quality support services for families and effective community involvement policies. I also have had leadership positions at Higher Learning Institutions that includes Chair of Humanities, Professional Studies, Director of the Early Childhood Education Program, and Early Childhood Education Professor. As the Director of Early Childhood Education, I created a childcare service for students of the University which was used as a clinical site for students of the Early Childhood Program. I have extensive success working with adult learners and providing professional development opportunities for child care providers. I have also researched, developed, implemented Early Childhood programs, and continue to be actively involved in community organizations that support the social, emotional, and cognitive development of children. It was my honor to be presented the 2017 Indiana Early Care and Education Hoosier Educator Award by the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC).

Specific Strengths and Skills for Indiana AEYC Governing Board: My current position on the AEYC Board as the Chair of the Professional Development Advisory Committee has afforded me the opportunity to have first-hand knowledge of the mission and purpose of the AEYC Governing Board. My strengths and skills include providing support of strategic goals and programming decisions, articulating goals both within and throughout departments, developing programs within the mission of the organization, possessing communication skills that facilitate open communication and team builder and player.

Greatest Issue(s) facing the early childhood field: There are two major issues facing the early childhood field the greatest of these is obtaining professionalization of the field the second is compensation for early childhood workers. A second issue is how well we connect birth to three services with preschool services with kindergarten. I see much work being done around 'school readiness,' but I never see our kindergarten teacher colleagues at the table helping and guiding us in that work. Nor do I see our birth to three colleagues who work so hard to strengthen families in their role as caregivers to help us understand the needs of both the child and the family. We tend to forget about the family and focus only on the child.

What role does Indiana AEYC play to address the issue (s): Indiana AEYC has a supportive, comprehensive, and active role to play if the early childhood education field is going to achieve the level of respect needed to be recognized as a profession.

Indiana AEYC Governing Board Secretary-Elect



Christine Garza

Director of Early Head Start Child Care Network, Early Learning Indiana

Efforts Working with Young Children and Families: Over the past twenty years I have been honored to serve some of the youngest and most vulnerable children and their families in our state. Having a diverse career has blessed me with a variety of opportunities to impact children and families from the classroom as a Two year old teacher, still one of my favorite positions. As a Home Visitor, the ability to support families as their child's first teacher was rewarding in a whole new way. That experience shaped the way my work as an Administrator supported the whole family. As an administrator I realized the importance of building systems that support the work of teachers as they provide the direct services to the children and families in our care. Having the opportunity to be the voice of a parents, and professional to advocate for the importance of quality efforts within the State of Indiana as well as in Washington, DC.

Specific Strengths and Skills for Indiana AEYC Governing Board: I have served Indiana AEYC in the capacity of Chapter President for both the North Western Region (formerly the Lakeporte Chapter) as well as the Central Region (formerly known as the Indianapolis Chapter). I have served the chapter as Public Policy representative. Currently serving the Board as Co-Chair of the Leadership Committee. I am aware of the expectations and work of the Board.

Greatest Issue(s) facing the early childhood field: One of the greatest issues I see facing our field is the multi-faceted workforce issue.

What role does Indiana AEYC play to address the issue(s): Indiana AEYC has the opportunity to continue to leverage and support the work force issue in many different capacities. Developing the current workforce through professional development and continued efforts to support T.E.A.C.H. (R) scholarships. Indiana AEYC continue to be a leading voice within state government to raise legislation that promotes the workforce issue.