

## **April Kuehne- Member-at-Large**



### **Summary of Experiences:**

- Currently is a Council Representative for Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- Past experiences include library assistant, mentor, consultant for Meaningful Play Consultants, and a teacher
- Co-founder of a desert-based sustainable school, and co-writer of a statewide curriculum in Nevada under peer review
- Eastern Washington AEYC member and Nevada AEYC member

### **Candidate Statement**

I am writing this letter to be considered for a Member-At-Large position with the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) Governing Board. The possibility of supporting and enhancing the professionalism of Early Childhood Educators in the State of Washington is very exciting to me! My main interests lie in assisting the Professionals Subcommittee with implementing Growing Connections and developing online training. I am also interested in becoming more involved in public policy in order to support our educators and the field of Early Childhood Education, though I am willing to work where needed with WAEYC.

Respecting and appreciating the perspectives of each individual while encouraging diversity is a core value that has been fundamental during my thirteen years in the early childhood field. My early childhood career began by working with numerous Head Start families in rural Montana, where we worked together to build family plans and set meaningful individualized goals. These experiences led me to Las Vegas, Nevada, where I instructed Pre-K and Kindergarten children in private schools, and assisted in writing a curriculum guide for parents and a benchmark continuum for the campus. While teaching, and as a result of experiencing the impact highly skilled, professional, and caring individuals have on our youth, I completed my Masters of Education in Early Childhood Education through the University of Nevada Las Vegas. I shared these skills with my peers and the Nevada education community by conducting various trainings, mentoring, and presently as a Child Development Associate (CDA) Council Representative. These positions have given me a great deal of insight and unique experiences helping children, families, and educators with a wide variety of needs and learning styles.

My professional experience includes collaboration with an architectural firm and fellow educators in developing Desert Sage School, a desert based sustainable school. Tentative campus designs, curriculum, and training plans can be viewed at <http://www.desertsageschool.com>. I have also supported educators in completing Professional Development Plans, and assisted in developing a state-wide curriculum training entitled *Transitions: Focus on the Journey* with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. This document is under peer review. Since 2005 I have been a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and its local affiliates. I have attended several national conferences and have been a presenter and planner for the Nevada State Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) conferences, as well as a presenter in the Southern Nevada AEYC affiliate conference.

These professional experiences, coupled with my early childhood experiences, have provided me with a multitude of skills that would be instrumental as a member of WAEYC. I appreciate this opportunity to become involved in the Early Childhood Community in the State of Washington.

Thank you for your consideration.

April A. Kuehne, M.Ed.