

**Candidate for Governance  
NYAEYC Governing Board**

***Jen Longley  
Borough Of Manhattan Community College  
Associate Professor***

My professional career has been devoted to enhancing the lives of young children, families, and early childhood professionals. In my current position, I have the privilege of learning with my students and colleagues as an Associate Professor in the Early Childhood program at the Borough of Manhattan Community College – CUNY. I moved to New York nearly 30 years ago to pursue graduate studies focused on working with infants-toddlers and families. I spent more than 20 years working directly with young children and families in different settings and roles before a career shift to preparing early childhood preservice professionals in academia.

**Like all nonprofits NYAEYC benefits from the expertise of its volunteer leaders and board members, please briefly describe the specific strengths and skills you believe you would bring to this position including, if any, previous board experience.**

I believe I will bring many strengths to the NYAEYC board including my work ethic, commitment to early childhood, leadership skills, vision, ability to collaborate, and knowledge/ experience in the field. I have had the privilege of volunteering on several boards, including the Yonkers Basics Advisory Board; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano LGBTQ+ Advisory Board; Yonkers PrideFest Advisory Board; St. John's Church Getty Square (Yonkers) Vestry as Warden and Clerk.

**What opportunities do you believe there are for New York to better serve children and families, and ensure early childhood educators are well prepared and supported? Please describe what action you would like to see NYAEYC take to help realize these opportunities?**

High-quality early childhood education (ECE) programming impacts young children, teens adults and generations to come. Yet, research has indicated many families do not have access to ECE programming based on their income, location, dis/ability, etc. The goal of NYAEYC is support ECE professionals to provide high-quality ECE programming to all children and families in NY. Thus, to ensure all young children and families have access to high-quality ECE programming involves working with stakeholder to lobbying in Albany for ECE funding, policies; and legislation; supporting developmentally-appropriate play-based curriculum in ECE programs; creating inclusive supportive ECE environments for young children, families and staff; providing evidence-based professional learning opportunities that meet the needs of ECE professionals (leaders, teachers, assistant teachers); offering workshops and materials for families on practices in high-quality ECE programming; developing workshops for families and staff on forming collaborative relationships on behalf of young children; ensuring ECE programs have culturally responsive, relationship-based curriculum that supports each child's identity and sense of self.

**NYAEYC is committed to working, with our state and national partners, to ensure a diverse, equitable and inclusive early childhood education system. Please describe how you see NYAEYC best contributing to this vision.**

I have been involved in NYAEYC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative as a facilitator during Town Hall meetings as well as a presenter in 2021 and 2022 (Embracing LGBTQIA+ Staff & Families in ECE Settings; How to Embrace LGBTQIA+ Staff and Families in ECE Settings). I am committed to continuing this work. As a parent of 2 young children, I see this work as vital.