

**Candidate for Vice President
NYAEYC Governing Board**

Stephanie Dockweiler

QS2 Training

President

I have worked as an advocate for the children and families of New York State for the last 39 years. My undergraduate and graduate work is in child development and early childhood education. I started my career as an Early Childhood Teacher, became a Director of an Early Care and Education-Head Start program, headed an organization whose charge was to facilitate NAEYC Accreditation in center based programs, was the Director of Training for a group of early childhood programs, and 16 years ago co-founded an Early Childhood training and consulting firm of which I am the President. I have been a member of NYAEYC for over 30 years. I have served on the state board as the Accreditation Chair, as the President, and currently sit on the board as a Member at Large. I am a member of the NAEYC.

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 that I hold many strengths that I can bring to the NYAEYC Board. I believe that I have demonstrated my expertise in leading and growing organizations by bringing together diverse groups of people and helping them to find common ground for moving an organization forward. I have the ability to work collectively to achieve powerful results while also respecting individual strengths and approaches to doing the task at hand. I believe that one of my greatest strengths is my passion for the field of early childhood education and I am willing to share my knowledge, experience and passion with others. In my experience on the NYAEYC Board I believe I have grown in my ability to work with diverse individuals, collaborate with other organizations, and move the agenda of NYAEYC forward.

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?

One of the many opportunities that I feel NYAEYC has is to continue to address is professional development opportunities. Research has shown us that without ongoing training and coaching, practices in the classroom rarely change. NYAEYC has spearheaded this work over the past years and they should continue to raise the bar in professional development. NYAEYC has made tremendous strides in advocating for children and families of New York State. We should continue to move in that direction so that every child has high quality care and education no matter the color of the child's skin, the family's income, or status. NYAEYC should continue to educate stakeholders on how young children develop and learn in appropriate settings with appropriate staff members who have been trained in early childhood education. I also believe

that in New York State we need to collaborate more, share resources, and talk to each other. There is so much expertise in Early Care and Education in this state and I believe by collaborating, sharing, and talking more not only will we assist each other, but we will also grow new leaders.

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.

It is my belief that if NYAEYC continues to embrace NAEYC's position statement on advancing equity in early childhood education, that together with other stakeholders we will be able to move the agenda forward. One of the main positions of this document says "All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that enable them to achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society." This is a must for all children in New York as well as the entire country. The DEI Committee of NYAEYC has done a tremendous job over the past 2 years of bringing "Courageous Conversation" topics to the field. Their work is driven by NAEYC's Position Statement. Over the next year each committee will continue to examine their work and assure that everything is looked at through the DEI lens.