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New York Association for the  
Education of Young Children

### **NYAEYC Candidate for President-Elect**

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**1. Please describe briefly your work on behalf of young children, families and early childhood education professionals.**

For over a decade, I have dedicated my professional life to creating spaces where children, families, and educators can thrive together. As the Education Director and Pre-K teacher at Bronx Baptist Day Care and Learning Center, I have worked daily to ensure that every child feels seen, valued, and capable of success. My approach is rooted in the belief that early childhood education is not just about academics; it is about nurturing the whole child through strong relationships, emotional safety, and joyful exploration.

I developed the R.I.S.E. to Resilience Framework, which focuses on four protective factors—Relationships, Initiative, Self-Regulation, and Emotional Intelligence—to help educators intentionally build resilience in their classrooms. Through workshops and presentations at NYAEYC conferences, I've guided teachers in integrating these principles into everyday routines and play-based learning.

My work extends beyond the classroom. I mentor new teachers, lead professional development sessions, and collaborate with families to strengthen home-school partnerships. As a member of NYAEYC's Executive Committee, I've contributed to statewide discussions about supporting early childhood professionals and advocating for policies that elevate our field. My goal has always been consistent: to create systems and supports that enable children to flourish and empower educators to feel proud, capable, and confident in their work.

**2. 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.**

I bring a unique combination of educational leadership, governance experience, and entrepreneurial innovation to this role. Serving as Recording Secretary on NYAEYC's Executive Committee has given me deep insight into the inner workings of nonprofit governance, strategic planning, and communication. I've helped revise NYAEYC's strategic plan to ensure alignment with NAEYC's national priorities and have contributed to fostering transparency and collaboration within board operations.

Beyond governance, I have over twelve years of experience leading programs, developing curriculum, and mentoring educators. As Education Director, I manage a team of dedicated professionals, ensuring high-quality, developmentally appropriate programming that meets state and city standards. I also lead professional learning that supports educators' growth in areas such as resilience, emotional literacy, and inclusive practices.

Additionally, as the Founder and CEO of Moments Always Remembered, a Harlem-based company that merges storytelling with technology, I bring strategic thinking, innovation, and business acumen to the table. These skills enable me to approach leadership with creativity and efficiency, always striking a balance between heart and strategy. My ability to build relationships, communicate effectively, and lead with empathy has enabled me to connect with diverse stakeholders, from families to policymakers, and translate shared visions into actionable outcomes.

**3. If elected, please describe any specific goals or objectives you would like to achieve.**

If elected President, my overarching goal will be to build upon NYAEYC's strong foundation while expanding its reach, relevance, and impact. My leadership vision centers on empowerment, engagement, and sustainability.

First, I aim to expand professional development opportunities that are both practical and accessible. I want to create pathways for educators across all regions of New York to access meaningful training, whether in person or virtually, focused on emerging best practices, leadership development, and resilience-building in early learning environments.

Second, I will work to strengthen member engagement by amplifying voices across the state and creating more opportunities for connection and collaboration. I envision mentorship circles, regional leadership networks, and member spotlights that celebrate the innovative work being done by educators every day.

Third, I am committed to supporting teacher well-being and retention. We know that the workforce is the heartbeat of early childhood education, and without healthy, supported educators, children cannot thrive. I would advocate for initiatives that prioritize mental health, fair compensation, and recognition of the essential role early educators play in society.

Finally, I will elevate NYAEYC's visibility and advocacy voice, strengthening partnerships with local and state agencies, policymakers, and other professional organizations to position NYAEYC as a leading voice in shaping early childhood policy and public awareness.

**4. 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.**

New York State has the extraordinary potential to lead the nation in reimagining what early childhood education can be. However, realizing this vision requires continued collaboration,

advocacy, and investment. We must ensure that access to high-quality early learning is equitable across communities, that families are supported as partners in their children's growth, and that educators are respected and compensated as professionals.

One key opportunity lies in strengthening the bridge between policy and practice. Too often, policy decisions are made without input from those who live the realities of the classroom. NYAEYC is uniquely positioned to connect the voices of educators, families, and administrators with legislators and decision-makers to inform meaningful change.

If elected, I will advocate for NYAEYC to take a proactive role in advancing initiatives that expand early childhood funding, strengthen the professional pipeline, and improve access to resources for both educators and families. This includes promoting partnerships with local colleges, workforce agencies, and family organizations to ensure that training, credentials, and supports are equitable and sustainable. I would also like to see NYAEYC broaden its communication efforts to share the powerful stories of impact happening across the state, stories that remind the public why early childhood education matters.

**5. 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.**

Diversity, equity, and inclusion must be more than statements of commitment, they must be living values that guide every decision we make as an organization. As an African-American woman and lifelong educator, I understand both the challenges and opportunities that come with ensuring every child and educator feels represented, respected, and valued.

NYAEYC can continue to lead by modeling what inclusive leadership looks like, through representation at all levels of governance, equitable access to professional development, and intentional outreach to underrepresented voices within our membership. I believe our association has the power to create spaces where all members, regardless of background, geography, or role, feel seen and heard.

I would champion initiatives that promote culturally responsive teaching, equitable compensation, and diverse leadership pipelines. This includes supporting educators of color through mentorship programs, expanding training on implicit bias and anti-racist practices, and amplifying the perspectives of those working in underserved communities.

By living our values and leading with empathy, NYAEYC can continue to be a driving force for equity and inclusion in early childhood education, creating a stronger, more unified community where everyone belongs.