

## **John Naegele-President Elect**



### **Summary of Experiences:**

- Currently is an Early Head Start State Director
- Past experiences include Community Outreach Director for Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Title I, and Special Services; Principal; and Teacher
- Pierce County AEYC member
- Washington Association of Head Start and ECEA Programs past president
- Past or current board or advisory committee member of Pierce County Reading Foundation, Read 2 Me, McNeil Island Correction Center Kairos Council, Pierce College Early Childhood Education, and Safe Schools, Healthy Students

### **Candidate Statement**

I have served on the WAEYC Board for the past two years as Secretary and as the Chair of the Personnel Committee, and as the Chair of Professional Development: Organizations and Businesses Committee. The past two years have not only been challenging for WAEYC but also a time in which we have implemented and applied our Theory of Change/Action, the Strategic Plan and the committee structure to redefine and reestablish ourselves as one of the premier organizations serving young children, families and our members in Washington State. I am proud to have been an active participant in this transformation. Not only is WAEYC stronger and more intentional in its vision, but also participates in the State's public policy development, local and statewide early learning and education coalitions, and is recognized for its commitment to improving quality in all areas of early learning.

As President-Elect, I want continue to lead and facilitate the transformation of WAEYC in the State and nationally. I want to assist our members in learning and being involved in the vision and mission of WAEYC as outlined in our Theory of Action and the Strategic Plan. Following two strong and dynamic Presidents, Leslie and Brenda, I desire to continue what they started. I believe in engaging members as active participants in advocating for public policy, legislation, implementing the State's Early Learning Plan, and continuing quality improvements in the field of early learning and education.

My experience in public education will assist me to lead the Association through the alignment of birth to 5 and the K-3 education standards. My knowledge, experience, and links with the Department of Early Learning, OSPI, and Thrive By Five will help to foster collaborations. I want to be able to see the fruits of our labors for young children and their families. I want our members to be active participants not only in the nurturing and education of young children but also to be spokespersons and role models of high standards, evidence-based practices, and quality services.

If selected, I would strive to increase the geographic, the ethnic, and type of providers serving on the Board and participating in affiliate chapters. The Board needs the perspectives of people from different cultures and backgrounds. Affiliates need to be active in their communities and geographic areas. Implementing and supporting other member structures such as local affiliate chapters or member hubs, would be a high priority. Without members who are informed, involved, and working together, early learning and education cannot grow and prosper. It is through collaboration and commitment that children will be ready for school but more importantly ready to be successful adults and parents.

As an educator for 40 years 20 years as an early learning director, I have actively worked for highest quality services for young children and their families. My worked has focused on supporting staff to provide children with rich, nurturing, and stimulating learning opportunities. Strengthening, supporting and educating parents to be their child's first and primary teacher has long been my commitment. Without strong and aligned partnerships between parents and educational staff, children are not able to achieve their maximum potential. This commitment I will bring to the members, to WAEYC, and to the Board.