

Wendy Newby- Member-at-Large



Summary of Experiences:

- Currently is a Center Director
- Past experiences include teaching adults and children
- Pierce County AEYC member
- Pierce County Directors Association past president
- Former board or advisory committee member of Washington Campus Children's Centers Coalition, Puyallup High School Vocational Education Advisory Council and Work Force Training Council, Child Care Coordination Committee Subcommittee on Career Development, Tacoma Nature Center, and United Way Pierce County Early Learning Project

Candidate Summary:

"Imagine an organization, a school, a community, filled with individuals who, instead of laying blame, instead of making excuses or becoming a victim, willingly choose to be accountable for everything that's got their name on it."

Halley Bock, President, Fierce Inc.

Accountability and willingness to have meaningful, conflicting discussions that help the WAEYC Board define the current reality of Early Childhood Education are actions I would contribute as a member of the Governing Board. I am excited to first listen and observe the dynamics of the Board and then have an opportunity to represent the great diversity of the areas in which I work and live.

My leadership experience includes private preschool in a rural community; corporate childcare management; community college instruction and childcare management; and operating a state funded free preschool-ECEAP. In addition, I have held board positions: President of our local affiliate PCAEYC; Secretary of the Pierce County Directors' Association, a local group of center directors from both profit and nonprofit centers; Secretary of the Washington Coalition of Campus Children's Centers, a group of Washington state college campus childcare directors;

and served on the steering committee for the Tacoma Nature Center as they were developing their nature preschool and United Way of Pierce County as they developed First 5 Fundamentals.

I would not bring racial or age diversity to the group as I compared myself to the list of Board Members; but I have over the last ten years been a part of a very diverse early learning environment: the campus childcare center is 85% free lunch and 54% underrepresented persons, the ECEAP sites I supervise are 50% to 70% Hispanic families. I supervise staffs that are bilingual Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian and Chinese—I love the rich environment in which I work—the challenges of looking at the world through the lens of others cultural experiences and how to create learning environments that are respectful of their values and defining what they believe about how children learn.

During the past five years, I have been privileged to encourage the professional development of my staff and have celebrated the completion of eleven Associate Degrees, five Bachelor Degrees and the start of Masters Degrees. I have experienced the change in a program when teachers' experiences are validated by research based theory and their methods are challenged by evidence of best practices. My actions demonstrate a commitment to WAEYC's vision; *“Early childhood professionals are well-qualified, competent and highly compensated, and early childhood programs are of high-quality. Systems that nurture and support high-quality are in place, and financial resources for professional development and program operations are available.”* I believe accountability is a personal choice about how to live one's life. It's a desire to take responsibility for results and a personal bias toward solutions and toward action. I am a visionary, and I often find myself bringing ideas together in new and different ways.