

Kathy Ramirez

I have my Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Pacific Oaks College. Both degrees are in Human Development with specializations in Leadership and Education and Child Development. I also am certified in Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) I and II as well as being certified in all four Modules through Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC).

I have been in the field of Early Childhood Education for 30 years. I have worked with children ranging in age from birth to 8 years. I have also worked closely with adults (parents, administrators and teachers). I have been a teacher, program coordinator, site supervisor, director and executive director during my 30 years.

I first started getting involved at the local level of Southern California AEYC about 10 years ago. I started out as our Hospitality Chair then moved into VP of Membership, Secretary, President-Elect, and President; now I am Past President as well as holding the Director's Rap Chair. At the local level I have been on several committees as well, Week of the Young Child and Programs to name a few. I have held three positions at the state level for CAEYC. They have been over the past four years and they include Affiliate Representative for Region 4, Train the Trainers Conference Chair 2008 and this coming year, 2010 State Conference Chair.

I think the leadership experience that I am most proud of is having introduced young men and women to our local affiliate board and then watching them emerge into wonderful new leaders. I think it is so important to make sure that we who have been in positions at the state and local level recognize up and coming new leaders and help them to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves. Training them to be our future within this organization is something that I am very passionate about and feel it is the one thing I am most proud of.

Anytime when working with young children and families we need to be mindful of how important inclusion and diversity is. I feel that in my own personal experience in this field I have been able to show respect for all people. In the early childhood program I currently run, one particular goal of mine is giving staff and children alike the same opportunities and allowing them to grow through them. Having an inclusive program gives each participant the opportunity to grow and learn from one another adding a rich sense of diversity to an always ever changing field.

I think that some of the things that I would be able to bring to the CAEYC Board is my sense of fun and excitement. I love challenges and enjoy serving a membership that I feel is so important to this field of early childhood education. The membership of CAEYC is the most important thing for this organization. If I am chosen to run for the office of Vice President, who is the Chair of the Membership Committee, I want others to learn that when you are involved in something you are able to create change. Getting people involved in something that they are passionate about makes me feel energized and learning from others helps me to grow as an educator.

My vision for CAEYC: How do we become relevant to the young educators of today? How do we reach out to them and once we have reached them maintain their interest in the membership of CAEYC? Having these discussions with others about how to get these new leaders involved in this very powerful organization would be my biggest vision for CAEYC. I want the young teachers and students of tomorrow to understand the importance of CAEYC and its membership for them. I want them to know that their voice is important and should be heard. I want them to know the power they have to make the necessary changes in this field. I want CAEYC to grow as we look for new hope and change for all children, families and teachers.

