

## Candidate for Vice President

**Tracy Farstad**

My name is Tracy Farstad and I am running for the CAEYC Vice President Officer board position.

I hold a BA in Child Development, an MA in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College and currently working on my PhD at Capella University specializing in Training and Performance Improvement.

I have been in the field of Early Childhood Education since 1987 and began my leadership and administration role in 1993. My first leadership role began at the age of 23 when I owned my own child care center; I had 100 families and 14 staff. Since that first critical role in my life of learning firsthand the ownership, management and supervising responsibilities of a full day child care center, I have worked with several for-profit as well as non-profit centers as an administrator or supervisor. I have assisted with the opening of two child care centers, which included all start up responsibilities, licensing regulations, environment set up, training, organization of paperwork and hiring of staff. In 2002, I spent two years with CAEYC as a Regional Accreditation Facilitator where I assisted 19 centers and 52 family child care homes with NAEYC & NAFCC Accreditation. I am currently the Assistant Director of Program at Cisco Family Connection which is a Bright Horizons Family Solutions client based center for Cisco Employees. I work with the Director of Program to oversee the 500+ families and 120+ staff. I recently led this mega center through the re-accreditation process with the new NAEYC Accreditation system, where we received notice in November that the center has been re-accredited and all 19 classrooms observed passed with percentages between 90 to 100 percent.



I have been involved with the local PAEYC affiliate over the years. In 2003 and 2004 I was the treasurer of our affiliate and handled all income and expenses. I also assisted the membership chairperson with increasing membership--specifically, creating letters to welcome new members and sending out postcards to encourage members to renew. In 2007 I was the PAEYC Accreditation Committee Chairperson, where I supported both center and family childcare members with accreditation. In addition to working with CAEYC as a Regional Accreditation Facilitator I also presented at the 2009 CAEYC conference. My topic was "ECE and Children with Hearing Loss" in which I educated workshop participants on how to provide an inclusive childcare environment for a child with hearing loss. This topic was my Master's thesis project and was also published in the PACE continuing education article published for ECE credit on the topic: "Inclusion of Children with Hearing Loss – Guidelines for Parents and Early Childhood Educators."

My most accomplished leadership experiences are those mentioned above, both as a Regional Accreditation Facilitator, where I spent two years helping centers and family childcare providers with accreditation, as well as my accomplishment in leading a mega center through and passing Accreditation with flying colors. In addition to these two achievements, I am also currently a consulting editor for NAEYC's *Young Children's* magazine.

In regards to Diversity and Inclusion, as a person who has lived with hearing loss for over 35 years and has been as successful in the many accomplishments I have performed over the past 22 years in the field of Early Childhood, shows that diversity is at the heart of all I do. I also have a service hearing dog named Poppy, who was very much welcomed at the CAEYC conference this past year and who has been an advocate at my center to teach the children and adults about inclusion and diversity. In addition to my personal life as a diverse individual, I have also been trained as an Inclusion coach through the Santa Clara County Office of Education Inclusion Collaboration group. In addition, I have also presented at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center in Salinas on the benefits of Hearing Dogs in the lives of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

As part of my diverse background of 22 years in the field of Early Childhood Education, I bring organization, leadership, a commitment to the field, and a dedication and support to the work that CAEYC brings to the field of Early Childhood.

My vision for CAEYC is to continue their mission of "advancing excellence throughout the early care and education profession." As Vice President, I would continue what I have done in the past, which is to help increase and support the current memberships at both the state and affiliate level. My vision also includes being a part of the diversity awareness culture which CAEYC mission and values hold.