



February 24, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to inform you of my interest to serve on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board as President Elect. As a long-term member of MIAEYC, I look to partner with others who provide high quality learning experiences for families and children, and the people who serve them. I've enjoyed serving in multiple capacities through MIAEYC events, such as conferences and institutes for twelve years, and more recently, through the Leadership Series. I am looking to serve in a greater capacity in order to help increase my positive impact in this field.

I believe I have certain leadership qualities and abilities that make me qualified to serve in this position. I value creative solutions and methods for tackling hard issues, such as employee engagement and staff turnover that seems to plague our field. I appreciate working with others to imagine, create, serve, evaluate, and continuously improve to constantly become better, individually, as a group, and as a larger system. I enjoy gathering different perspectives, beliefs, and ideas to create something that serves everyone to the best of our collective ability. Above all, I seek to know and understand the various perspectives and needs within the early childhood field, whether it be through the role of parent, classroom teacher, administrator, health and wellness, community organizations, etc. Through a more complete understanding comes courage, and courage leads to risk-taking, which leads to success. I value this process for myself as an individual and for everyone I work with.

I am the owner of Grow By 1, a business created for the sole purpose of helping individuals, groups, and systems learn, understand, and grow to their fullest potential. I am also an Executive Director with the John Maxwell Team, a global team dedicated to teaching authentic and empowering leadership principles around the world in any field or industry. I would bring these skills and knowledge with me into the President Elect position. I have an extensive background in early childhood role, including classroom teacher, administrator, consultant, ECS, etc. I value this somewhat unorthodox journey in early childhood, as it has provided me varying perspectives, which I would certainly bring with me to this role.

I believe the future is bright and full of opportunity for the field of Early Childhood and I am honored that I get to be a part of what MIAEYC is doing to serve children and families across the state. I will remain honored whether you accept me for this role or not. I believe in our future and will serve in whatever capacity I can find, or create! Please don't hesitate to reach out for more information.

Michelle Burkhard

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Burkhard".