

Jenna Craven

(734)787-0338

jenna.m.craven@gmail.com

Candidate Statement - Student Member-at-Large

My interest in MiAEYC comes from the fact that every adult, teen and child in Michigan was influenced in the quality of their early childhood education. MiAEYC supports inclusion for children of different abilities and backgrounds for children and families in the educational setting which is an area I am highly interested in. Post graduation from MSU, my goal is to become a Speech-Language Pathologist in early intervention so I am passionate about the need for inclusion in the classroom. Children need to feel as though they belong in a space to ensure that they are getting the most out of their education.

Skills that I have that assist me as a student perspective are time management and flexibility both of which I learned through color guard. As a Squad Leader for the Spartan Marching Band Color Guard I was dedicating time outside of the daily two hour practices to sectionals, recording choreography for other members to reference and grading technique exercises to make sure that the eight members I was responsible for were on top of their skills. The extra time I was putting in benefitted me because I truly have to stay organized and manage my time. Flexibility comes in both high stress situations and typical day to day proceedings. This could range to anywhere from making sure equipment is transported correctly to teaching choreography. During one of the show cycles last fall the Color Guard Director called and explained that she would not be at rehearsal which started in an hour, asking me to learn and teach 3 minutes of choreography from a video. This was for the show we performed at the

University of Michigan game, Bands of America Grand National Championships and the RedBox Bowl. I rose to the pressure, teaching for the entire two hour rehearsal that day.

An advantage that I have applying for this position is that I was previously on a board for Tau Beta Sigma Zeta Epsilon, a music service sorority. The organization focused on community outreach for music education as well as servicing the Michigan State University School of Music. As the Parliamentarian I understood the responsibility of being a voting member since I was the initiator of three changes to the Chapter Constitution, the largest being changing the way that the organization voted. The President, Vice President of Membership and Vice President of Service were skipping steps of the voting process and as Parliamentarian I had to bring this issue to their attention. Though it was difficult to address since these were members with positions above mine I needed to insure that the voices of the chapter were being heard.

In conclusion I appreciate the focus that MiAEYC takes on early childhood education because of the impact education has on other areas of life like communication and inclusion. I have learned life skills through extra curricular activities that enhance my student and professional life. Lastly, I am aware of how important it is to uphold expectations set by organizations to insure outcomes that consider others perspectives. Thank you for the time and consideration that is being placed into my application.