

## Candidate Statement – Heather Lucas

My connection to MiAEYC began with a student membership in 1991. Since that time I have enjoyed a full career in early childhood, enriched by the resources, connections, growth opportunities, and professional supports that are a part of our esteemed association. Through the years I have witnessed the early childhood profession shifting and growing in dramatic ways. I believe we are at a critical point, and I wish to give back to the profession and the organization I value so much by serving as a member of the MiAEYC Governing Board.

I have spent my career in early childhood working in multiple capacities serving young children, families, and early childhood professionals as a teacher, director and school administrator, NAEYC Validator, trainer, adjunct faculty, curriculum developer and consultant. I have been privileged to serve on the board for my AEYC affiliate, as well as several early childhood non-profit boards and committees in my local community including positions as public policy chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and board chairperson. These experiences have broadened my perspective and granted me numerous opportunities to grow, each one adding to the last as I apply knowledge and wisdom gained to support my every undertaking. Specifically, I have overseen and/or directly managed small to multi-million dollar budgets, grants, programs, facilities, staffs, and large-scale projects and events. And while I have always been based in Michigan, my work has included local, state and national level experiences, bringing knowledge of early childhood policy and practice in multiple states as well as at the federal level. Most recently, my work as a consultant for the Michigan Department of Education has brought me closer than ever to the realities and possibilities here in our wonderful state. Committed to continuous personal growth, I have engaged in many professional learning experiences through the years including in-depth professional learning in collaborative leadership and have recently been selected as a Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) Leadership Academy fellow for 2019-2020. I am excited to bring this new learning to my future work and hope to have the opportunity to do so as an active part of MiAEYC.