

Bulletin Board

ECE News

Page 2

A Message from Our ED

*New Years Resolutions
Can be Professional Too*

Page 4

DCAEYC New Board Members Spotlight

Page 5

Principle of Practice

Professional Development

Page 6

Policy Beat

*NAEYC Virtual Public Policy
Forum & Performance
Oversight Hearings*

Page 8

Upcoming Events

Page 9



DCAEYC Welcomes Three New Board Members

A new year is a time for new beginnings.

Following our Board elections throughout December, DCAEYC is pleased to welcome **Beatriz Barros, Mau Castro-Trujillo, and Alethea Etinoff** to the DCAEYC Board as our new At-Large members!

We're excited to see how our new Board members help us continue to grow and better serve DC's ECE community. Learn more about our new Board members in our **DCAEYC New Board Members Spotlight** on page 5.

DCAEYC January 2024 Bulletin Board

Wolf Trap Professional Development Week Starts January 22!

Join Wolf Trap January 22-27, 2024 for Wolf Trap Professional Development Week: Supporting and Celebrating Early Childhood Teachers Through the Arts. The week-long event will include a series of FREE arts-integrated professional development webinars designed for early childhood educators and teaching artists. For a list of webinars and registration links [click here](#).

Sign up for one session or all of them! Each participant will receive a certificate of completion that may be eligible for professional development hours.

Mark Your Calendars: Month of the Young Child is Coming!

It's officially 2024, which means Month of the Young Child is right around the corner! All April long we'll host various in-person events and provide resources centered around the themes of Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. More details coming soon.

New NAEYC Survey Closing Soon: DC Responses Needed

Federal child care stabilization grants ended on September 30, 2023. Through NAEYC's partnership with the RAPID EC Survey Project, they have **shared some data about the impact on the national child care landscape**, but completing and sharing the January 2024 survey will help them ensure they can get updated, **state-based**, and localized data and stories, about the up-to-the-moment realities of what is happening across our sector so we can collectively share those with you, advocates, policymakers, the press, and the public.

[Take the Survey](#)

[Tome la encuesta](#)

This survey will close at midnight PT on Sunday, January 21. Please complete and share the survey today!

DC Early EdX is Friday, April 5, 2024

DC Early EdX 2024 will be an in-person only event! Unlike previous years, there will be no virtual content. The event will take place on Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC. More details are coming soon. In the meantime, check out **[these highlights from last year's event!](#)**

Standing Ovation 2023: Congratulations to DCAEYC Board Member Kalpana Kumar Sharma!

Congratulations to DCAEYC Board member Kalpana Kumar Sharma for being one of the 2023 Educator Excellence Award Winners for SY 2022-2023 as part of Standing Ovation 2023! Standing Ovation is a yearly event to celebrate the entire community of DC educators and present top performers with awards and cash prizes. Read Ms. Kumar's bio on the DCAEYC Board page [here](#).

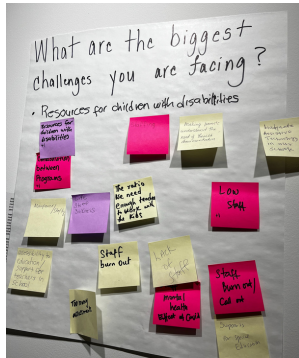
Welcome New DCAEYC Members!

DCAEYC extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Yetunde A	Andrea D	Kiysha J	Vashon M	Jung S
Ngeri A	Laura E	Shayla J	Shawn M	Sarah S
Tyeisha B	Nicole E	Carmencita J	Marina M	Deidra S
Rosario B	Stephanie F	Terrance K	Rose N	Ashley T
Riley B	Anthony F	Joyce K	Jane N	Ashley V
Shelley B	Igor G	Nan L	Rasha P	Jennyffer V
Veronica B	Derek G	Kesha L	Pennetta P	Juliet W
Tatum B	Daniel H	Jacqueline L	Tina R	Inmaculada Y
Tanisha C	Annekia H	Min L	Jordan R	Richard Z
Suah C	Rachel H	Joemese M	Leonor R	
Calder D	Shanika H	Araceli M	Emma R	

Quarter Review: Looking Back from September to December 2023

Team DCAEYC had a blast traveling to Nashville, Tennessee last November for the 2023 NAEYC Annual Conference! Besides being able to go to lots of wonderful sessions to help us advance our craft, we also got to enjoy the flavors and music only Nashville can offer. Of course the highlight was none other than the inspirational opening session featuring Dj Pryor!



This past past quarter we had two exciting in-person events. **We Care, We Share, We Listen** in September was a celebratory event of networking and building relationships with other early childhood educators across the District. Our **Annual Membership Meeting** in December was an opportunity to learn about the State of DCAEYC and meet other DCAEYC members. For future DCAEYC events check out the **Upcoming Events** section on page 9.

NEW VIDEO: Empowering the Profession Through Early Childhood Educator Credentials

Early childhood educator credentials matter. At DCAEYC, we want to uplift stories of early childhood educators who are empowering themselves by earning credentials that elevate their skills and knowledge in Early Childhood Education.

On December 11, 2023, DCAEYC released a video where educators share how seeking high credentials have helped them grow both professionally and personally.

We are thankful for the generous support and partnership with NAEYC for this project.

[To watch the video click here.](#)



New Years Resolutions Can Be Professional Too

A Message from Our ED



Greetings and Happy New Year!

Making New Year resolutions dates back over 4000 years to the ancient [Babylonians](#). They believed that if promises to repay their debts and return borrowed items were kept, the gods would favor them. Although the intent and practice have evolved through time, the desired outcomes are the same. We all want to change something from the previous years! Resolutions that focus on self-care, health, family, saving money, or taking up a new hobby are adopted to improve aspects of our lives.

For many, dedicating time and attention to resolutions helps to create healthy changes in personal habits and attitudes. Yet, setting career or professional goals or resolutions don't often make the list. Setting professional growth goals can be a restart or refresh on your career path.

Some resolutions to consider:

- Starting or finishing earning an early childhood education degree
- Building your professional network by connecting with other local early educators at an upcoming DCAEYC Affinity Group
- Creating a vision statement to be intentional about where your career is headed
- Serve as or seek a mentor in your early childhood program or field
- Engage with DCAEYC as a member by attending events and professional development opportunities
- Take ongoing classes on a specific topic or focus area to enhance your knowledge and skills

Whatever resolutions or goals you choose, DCAEYC is here to support your professional growth. Please be on the lookout for professional development opportunities in the event section of this newsletter and our website.

May 2024 be a year of good health, happiness, peace, and prosperity!

In solidarity,
Kathy Hollowell-Makle
Executive Director
DCAEYC

DCAEYC New Board Members Spotlight

DCAEYC is pleased to welcome Beatriz Barros, Mau Castro-Trujillo, and Alethea Etinoff to the DCAEYC Board as our new At-Large members! Get to know them better below. To meet the rest of the DCAEYC Board [click here](#).



Beatriz Barros

At-Large Board Member,
DCAEYC

Beatriz Barros is the Deputy Chief of Education and Youth Programs at Martha's Table. She has been committed to the Martha's Table mission for over ten years, beginning her work in the Out-of-School Time program as the Education Group Leader in their original home on 14th Street Northwest.

In her director role, Beatriz led the Maycroft Education team in achieving and maintaining a High-Quality designation for the past four years, played an integral role in our community-led strategic planning process, and consistently identified opportunities across the organization to connect with and serve team members, families, and the community. In her current role, she leads the work to build out older youth programming to align with community wants and needs.

Beatriz's career in education began in 2001 as an AmeriCorps Team Member before working in both DC Public Schools and Charter Schools. She has worked in various non-profits in the District before beginning her work at Martha's Table. Beatriz holds a Master's in Elementary Education from Trinity University.



Mau Castro-Trujillo

At-Large Board Member,
DCAEYC

Mau Castro-Trujillo is the current CDA Program Manager at Briya Public Charter School, as well as an adjunct faculty professor in two of the most prestigious community colleges in the region. Mau has been working in the field of early childhood for more than 20 years and in the last ten as a college

professor/adult ed. instructor educating early childhood teachers and staff. In those years, she has worked assisting, organizing, coordinating, and training in different work settings in the education field, including providing technical assistance and visits to Family Childcare Providers and designing college-level courses while working with a diverse student population.

Mau worked for six years developing, designing, and teaching developmental classes for Workforce Development and Continuing Education as part of a certification program at the Montgomery Community College in Maryland. She has overseen the CDA Program at Briya Public Charter School for the last eight years, teaching English and Spanish. And more recently, Mau started teaching for the unique Bilingual Associate Degree Program at the University of District of Columbia.



Alethea Etinoff

At-Large Board Member,
DCAEYC

Alethea Etinoff is a native Washingtonian with a wide range of interests. From a young age, it was evident Alethea had a passion for politics, policy and the justice system. Alethea was the only one of her adolescent friends that daily sat and watched the Iran-Contra Hearings.

Besides her passion surrounding the justice system, Alethea is an avid traveler. She credits her mother for her love of travel. Her mom took her on her first and many international flights at the age of 8 years old. Alethea was raised to believe you can't truly understand and appreciate someone else's culture if you haven't experienced it for yourself. Nor can you effect change on matters you have no experience. In addition to her political and travel pursuits, Alethea enjoys reading. Of course her current reading at this time is *The Fall The End of Fox News*. She also enjoys the suspense of James Patterson books.

Alethea's diverse views on the world make her a well-rounded individual, constantly seeking new ways to share her beliefs and give back to her community.

Professional Development Leads to Career and Personal Growth

Principle of Practice

In order to grow, constant learning is necessary. This is true even for experts in a given field. As times change so does our understanding of a given topic, which in turn can lead to new methods and best practices. In order to stay up-to-date on the latest standards for your field, professional development is fundamental.

According to NAEYC, “professional development is a continuum of learning and support activities designed to prepare individuals for work with and on behalf of young children and their families, as well as ongoing experiences to enhance this work. These opportunities lead to improvements in the knowledge, skills, practices, and dispositions of early childhood professionals.”

As important as professional development is, it can be hard to get excited about it. Maybe you don't like the topic, or perhaps you're tired after a long day. To get the most out of your professional development, try following these tips to become more engaged and enthusiastic.

1. Be present and build bridges

Be prepared to collaborate with your peers, take in new information, and use others at the session as resources. Put away your devices and be open to learning from the presenters and from other attendees.

2. Listen for goals you want to accomplish

During the training, reflect on areas where you need more help. Choose a couple of strategies from the workshop to apply in your classroom.

3. Be ready to take notes

Jotting down key points and questions will help you remember them later. Use whatever method works for you: pen and paper, a favorite note-taking app, or taking photos of key slides and group brainstorming notes.

4. Find a colleague or a community of learners

Ask the presenter if there will be a way to follow up with other attendees afterward. Make connections and exchange contact information with other attendees during the training. After a few weeks, check in with your new contacts to see how you're all progressing.

5. Set aside time for self-reflection

Brainstorm on your own, with colleagues, or with someone you met at the training. Think about new strategies you have tried. What worked? What else might you try? Remember, change is hard work, and it rarely happens overnight.

6. Celebrate your achievements

When you try a new strategy that helps you meet a goal, be sure to recognize your achievement and celebrate it! After experiencing positive results, you'll anticipate future workshops with relish!

These tips were taken from the NAEYC article *6x: Getting the Most out of Professional Development* by Erica Holland in [Teaching Young Children October/November 2018](#) Vol. 12, No. 1

Professional Development in Action

In November 2024, DCAEYC traveled to Nashville, Tennessee for the 2024 NAEYC Annual Conference. As part of our commitment to bringing professional development opportunities to the District's ECE workforce, we provided scholarships for the first time in our organization's history to make it easier for members to join us. Below is an account of their experience.



Shadel Longshore

Lead Teacher,
Easterseals DC MD VA

What made you want to attend the Conference?

I was interested in attending the NAEYC conference to gain knowledge that interested me so I can bring back additional tools to apply to my classroom and also be able to pass on the information to my co-workers.

What was one session that you attended which inspired you, and what takeaways will you be bringing back to your program/classroom?

One session that inspired me was about toddlers and sensory play. I learned many other ways to include sensory play inside of the classroom other than water. The speaker passed around a basket full of different materials and most of them helped me open my mind to different ways I can enhance my students' senses.

What do you plan on doing with the information you've learned at the Conference?

I plan on applying the knowledge into my own work space as well as pass it on to my colleagues and management.

What was your overall experience of the Conference?

I enjoyed the sessions pertaining to toddlers and children with disabilities because I work with them the most. However, I would have enjoyed more teacher-led sessions meaning speakers who are currently in the teacher role and having the opportunity to speak from our point of view and address issues we may have.

What are some other professional development opportunities you're interested in to help you continue to grow in your craft in early childhood education?

I am interested in having my job provide the staff with training for children with disabilities to help new staff feel more comfortable and make sure our students get the best care possible.



Austin Lee

Assistant Teacher,
Smithsonian Early
Enrichment Center

What made you want to attend the Conference?

I wanted to attend the Conference to gain age appropriate practices from workshops that I can implement into the classroom.

What was one session that you attended which inspired you, and what takeaways will you be bringing back to your program/classroom?

The session *Challenging behaviors: What to do when nothing else works* helped to broaden my thought process on how to handle challenging behaviors in the classroom by using effective strategies and languages with young children.

What do you plan on doing with the information you've learned at the Conference?

With the information I have learned from the NAEYC Conference I will continue to use play based strategies and age appropriate activities/strategies to help make a difference amongst the children and other teachers in the learning environment.

What was your overall experience of the Conference?

I enjoyed my overall NAEYC Conference experience, especially meeting so many other educators and relating to their experiences.

What are some other professional development opportunities you're interested in to help you continue to grow in your craft in early childhood education?

I am interested in pursuing my BA Degree in Human Development with a focus in Early Childhood Education as I continue my journey into becoming a certified child life specialist.

Represent DCAEYC at NAEYC's 2024 Virtual Public Policy Forum

Sunday, February 25 & Monday, February 26

Join the DCAEYC Team for NAEYC's virtual Public Policy Forum, where we will come together with hundreds of early childhood educators and stakeholders to strengthen our advocacy skills, expand our policy knowledge, deepen our relationships with Congressional offices, and build a powerful movement across states and communities!

This year's event will be held virtually, with dozens of live and on-demand sessions, in recognition of staffing and financial challenges facing child care programs and providers, and to provide equitable, accessible opportunities for a diverse group of new and seasoned educators and advocates from all over the country to access the benefits of Public Policy Forum! NAEYC will be partnering with the [Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children](#) to highlight and embed content on advocating for and supporting inclusive care for children with disabilities and developmental delays.

Dates and Times

Live keynote, plenary, and concurrent sessions will be held on the virtual platform on:

- Sunday, February 25, 2024: 1:00 – 5:00 pm EST
- Monday, February 26, 2024: 1:00 – 5:00 pm EST
- Sessions will also be available on-demand – along with more than a dozen hours of additional pre-recorded content and resources – through March 2024!

For additional information [click here](#). To join the DCAEYC Team email Kathy Hollowell-Makle at executivedirector@dcaeyc.org.

Performance Oversight Season: Tell the DC Council About Your Experience with the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund

DCAEYC has heard about the challenges you've been facing with the implementation of the Pay Equity Fund, and behind the scenes we've been elevating what we've heard to OSSE and other relevant parties. While we've been doing everything we can to let the powers that be know about your struggles, we also want them to hear directly from YOU!

Performance Oversight Season is now upon us, which means this is your opportunity to speak directly to the DC Council about your experiences and concerns. If you're interested in sharing testimony with the DC Council, please email Kathy Hollowell-Makle at executivedirector@dcaeyc.org. Performance Oversight Dates (including the Education hearing for the Pay Equity Fund) can be found in the box to the right.

Policy Beat

Performance Oversight Highlights

Department of Behavioral Health

Public Witnesses: January 29, 2024, 9:30-6 PM
Government Witnesses: January 31, 2024, 9:30-1:30 PM
Points of Discussion: Healthy Futures

Department of Health Care Finance

All witnesses: February 8, 2024, 9:30-6 PM
Points of Discussion: Home Visiting

Child and Family Services Agency

All Witnesses: February 21, 2024, 9:30-1:30 PM
Points of Discussion: Home Visiting

Education

Public Witnesses: February 27, 2024, 9-6PM
Government Witnesses: February 28, 2024, 9:30-6 PM
Points of Discussion: Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund

Department of Human Services

all witnesses: February 29, 2024, 9:30-6 PM
Points of Discussion: SNAP

**Virtual Training for
Facility Leaders:
Updating Staff Records in DELLT**



The Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) child care licensing regulations require all child development facilities to maintain up-to-date staff records in the Division of Early Learning Licensing Tool (DELLT). To support child development facility leaders to understand the process for updating staff records in DELLT, the Division of Early Learning's (DEL's) Licensing and Compliance Unit (LCU) will host two virtual training sessions in January.

[Mon, Jan 22, 2024 | 11:30 am - 1:00pm](#)

[Tues, Jan 23, 2024 | 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm](#)

New Year, New You: Professionalizing Yourself for Bigger and Better Things

Sat, Feb 3, 2024

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

700 Pennsylvania Ave SE

Second Floor

Washington DC , 20003

This PD is designed for early educators who want to improve their career and seeks to cultivate themselves as an ECE professional. This PD will focus on identifying positive characteristic traits, communication and conflict resolution. Open to DCAEYC members only.

[Register Here!](#)



District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children

CAYL Catalyst Ep. #34 -

Portraits of Courage: Featuring

Sherril Killins Stewart

Thurs, Feb 1, 2024

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm



"Equity" has been a buzzword in early childhood education for decades, but how we think about equity today is different from how we thought about it in the past. As issues change and transform, how do we honor the leaders who fought for equity? How do we lift up the next generation of professionals who will continue advancing the cause?

[Register Here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Directors' Nook

Wed, Feb 21, 2024

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Online: Zoom



District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children

Join our virtual meeting for DCAEYC members who are early childhood directors or administrators. This meeting will be a safe place for all early childhood directors and administrators to meet, share, and discuss topics related to our work and any additional interests.

[Register Here!](#)

NAEYC's 2024 Virtual

Public Policy Forum

Sun, Feb 25 & Mon, Feb 26



Join the DCAEYC Team for NAEYC's virtual Public Policy Forum, where we will come together with hundreds of early childhood educators and stakeholders to strengthen our advocacy skills, expand our policy knowledge, deepen our relationships with Congressional offices, and build a powerful movement across states and communities! More details in Policy Beat on how to join.

To stay up-to-date on events for the ECE field in DC, visit dcaeyc.org/events.

STAY CONNECTED



dcaeyc.org

Not yet a member of DCAEYC? Join the movement supporting early childhood education in DC by becoming a member today.

[Join DCAEYC](#)

About **dcaeyc**

District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children

DCAEYC serves as the DC Affiliate Chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Our mission is to strengthen the early care and education system in D.C. so that every young child has the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life. We do this by:

- Advocating for young children and their families
- Collaborating with partner organizations in the city
- Offering resources and services to members
- Striving to be a high performing, culturally sensitive, inclusive organization

Not yet a member of DCAEYC? Join the movement supporting early childhood education in D.C. by becoming a member today.

An Affiliate of **naeyc**