

Call for Applications – NAEYC Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs is currently seeking an additional member. The Commission has the main charge of rendering accreditation decisions regarding early childhood degree programs at institutions of higher education. The Commission is a self-managing group, with clear a structure, policies, and procedures that support the accreditation decision-making process. Commission members primarily represent early childhood leaders from early childhood degree programs, and other sectors of the early childhood field. The Commission also contributes to accreditation policies and procedures and the revision of professional preparation standards. The Commission is guided by its own founding principles as well as the guidelines for strong higher education accreditation practices as defined by Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the U.S. Department of Education.

The composition of the Commission reflects NAEYC's commitment to being a high-performing, inclusive organization. The Commission is committed to assuring that its composition (1) includes individuals with a range of experience that support the mission and responsibilities of the Commission and the accreditation process; and (2) reflects the diversity of its constituency with specific attention to culture and ethnicity, language, geographic location, and gender.

The Commission is a volunteer entity, and, as such, Commissioners do not receive compensation for their service. Travel and other direct costs related to attending regular, special or committee meetings, workshops or site visits are paid by NAEYC.

Commissioner Responsibilities: Commissioners serve for three years and are limited to two consecutive terms. Commission members commit to attend two 3-day meetings a year at NAEYC Headquarters (typically February and June) and to participate in online meetings (typically May and October); to actively serve as a member of at least one standing committee; and to participate in accreditation orientation sessions. Preparation for Commission meetings includes review and critical assessment of programs' Self-Study Reports, Peer Review Team Reports, Written Responses to the team report and Annual Reports. Preparing for an in-person Commission meeting may take approximately 20-25 hours (this includes reviewing program cases, writing draft decisions, and reviewing materials for other topics on the agenda). Post-Commission meeting work may take approximately five hours to finalize decision reports for assigned cases. In addition, Commissioners may be expected to conduct business between meetings related to their standing committee work.

Commissioners must have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to make high-stakes accreditation decisions and should meet the following criteria:

Professional Criteria: Demonstrated commitment to the aims of early childhood teacher education at higher education institutions; understanding of the nature of program accreditation systems, policies and procedures; respect for the confidential, fair, and impartial nature of accreditation decisions.

Personal Criteria: Demonstrated ability to: work and make decisions in a close collegial relationship; strive for consensus within a group but take responsibility for actions based on a vote by the majority; express individual questions and concerns and hear the perspectives and opinions of others; consider information and data impartially and make rational and timely decisions; and communicate decisions effectively in written decision reports. In addition, the individual must have the capacity to read large volumes of accreditation reports in a condensed period of time.

Additional Areas of Consideration: In keeping with the Commission's commitment to maintaining a diverse composition that is representative of the programs it serves, it is particularly seeking individuals who represent at least one of the following areas:

- Serves in a minority-serving institution
- Serves in an institution in the mid-west or western region of the U.S.
- Serves as a faculty member or administrator in a baccalaureate or graduate degree early childhood program
- Is a person of non-Caucasian background
- Is male

Commission Term: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020

Upcoming Commission Meeting Dates: February 26-28, 2018 (Washington, DC), May 2, 2018 (virtual meeting), June 20-22, 2018 (Washington, DC)

How to Apply: Interested individuals should submit their resume and a brief statement describing their interest and qualifications (no more than 500 words) to mharrill@naeyc.org by September 22, 2017. Applicants are encouraged to review the [Accreditation Handbook](#) for the system and particularly Appendix B: Conflicts of Interest, Confidentiality, and Code of Conduct Policies.

For questions, please contact Mary Harrill at mharrill@naeyc.org or (202) 350-8834.