

My name is Kenneth Sherman, and it is an honor to submit my personal statement for President-Elect candidacy with the NAEYC Governing Board.

I have served in many roles during my 30-year career in early childhood education. What started in rural Athens, Texas as a job at a local daycare while attending college, turned into a passion for educating and advocating for young children. Since then, I have obtained a degree in Early Childhood Educational Leadership, been a preschool classroom teacher, mentor teacher, and the center director for a non-profit preschool. I have served as the Chief Academic Officer for the HighScope San Antonio HUB of Excellence in San Antonio Texas, leading professional development and instructional coaching at two public preschools that are partnered with HighScope and serve children from age three to second grade. When I reflect on my 30-year career as an African American male in early childhood, it is these experiences that I will bring to the table as President-Elect.

I currently serve as Director of Professional Development at the HighScope Educational Research Foundation. HighScope is best known for the landmark Perry Preschool Project that began in Ypsilanti, Michigan. It was the first study of its kind to study whether access to high-quality education would have a positive impact on preschool children and the communities where they live and the effects of high-quality teacher training on child outcomes. In this role, I spearhead and develop in-person and online training services and professional development to enhance the skills and abilities of early childhood educators in every state and more than 20 countries around the world. In addition, I also supervise over 50 early childhood Field Consultants in the United States, Canada, and Japan.

In addition to my work for HighScope, I have contributed to the field of early childhood in other capacities as well. I have been involved with many agencies that help shape the future of early childhood, such as The National Black Child Development Institute, The Early Learning Alliance, and the NAEYC Accreditation Council as Chair. In 2020 I was awarded the Exchange Leadership award and I have written several articles centering around Social and Emotional Learning, Social Justice, and supporting boys of color in preschool. It's easy to say that my passion for early childhood education has impacted, and will continue to impact, the field for generations to come.

I believe that I am qualified to serve as President-Elect and that I am the right person.