

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio AEYC Announces New Board Leadership

Columbus, OH – February 6, 2025 – The Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children (Ohio AEYC) is proud to announce the appointment of *Shawn Holden as President-Elect* and *Joyce Grimes as Vice President - Elect* of the Board of Directors. Their leadership and dedication will play a crucial role in advancing Ohio AEYC’s mission of empowering those who care for, educate, and advocate on behalf of young children.

With over 30 years of experience, Shawn Holden has dedicated her career to fostering the growth and development of young learners and the professionals who serve them. She spent 20 years in Head Start, ensuring high-quality early learning experiences for children and families, before transitioning to the private sector as a child care center director. Currently, Shawn is the principal of Prospect Academy in East Cleveland, Ohio, where she leads with a focus on equity, excellence, and innovation in early childhood education. Her mission is to empower educators, engage families, and create enriching learning experiences that inspire lifelong success.

Bringing 44 years of experience to the field, Joyce Grimes has spent the majority of her career as an Administrator for a Head Start program and now serves as the Senior Director of Head Start Services with the YMCA of Central Ohio Head Start. A passionate advocate for early childhood professionals, Joyce has been actively involved with Ohio AEYC for over 20 years, with a special commitment to the annual Early Childhood Conference at Kalahari. She firmly believes that a strong foundation in early learning is essential for a child’s lifelong success and works tirelessly to ensure that educators have the tools, resources, and support they need to thrive.

“We are honored to welcome Shawn and Joyce into these leadership roles,” said Ohio AEYC Co-Executive Directors Kimberly Tice & Qianna Tidmore. “Their extensive experience, dedication, and vision will strengthen our efforts to support early childhood educators and enhance learning experiences for young children across Ohio.”

Shawn and Joyce’s leadership will play a critical role in shaping Ohio AEYC’s advocacy, professional development, and community engagement efforts. Join us in congratulating Shawn Holden and Joyce Grimes on their new positions!

About Ohio AEYC

The Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children (Ohio AEYC) is dedicated to advancing the field of early childhood education through professional development, advocacy, and support for educators. By fostering a strong community of early childhood professionals, we work to enhance learning experiences for young children across the state.