

Candidate: Meryl Faulkner

Position: Early Childhood Network Chair Elect

I am thrilled to be considered as a candidate for Early Childhood Network's Chair Elect. My passion for equitable identification and programming for young Gifted children is represented in my dissertation and current professional role as Manager of Gifted and Talented Department in Denver Public Schools. In my dissertation, [Gifted Identification in Young, Historically Underrepresented Populations: A Phenomenological Study](#), I investigated the lived experiences of the Gifted identification process, specifically for Gifted students 8 years or younger from underrepresented populations, through the perspective of the educators and families. My research and professional experience inform my vision for NAGC's Early Childhood network which is to spread awareness and professional learning opportunities related to early Gifted identification and developmentally appropriate practices for young, Gifted children. Considerations for special populations are imperative to this work, and I would love the chance to be the representative for our youngest Gifted students.