

**Candidate: Christine Deitz, Ed.D.**

**Position: At-large**

**Biography (150 words max) that provides NAGC members information regarding your background, experience, and qualifications for the position. Be sure to include the most significant ways you have contributed to and participated in NAGC.**

Dr. Christine Deitz is the Associate Director for the Mahony Center for Gifted Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a nationally recognized educator in gifted, creative, and talented education. Beyond her 30 years of public school service, Christine holds two National Board Teacher certificates and is also the coordinator of the National Board Teacher support site at UA Little Rock. A recipient of multiple awards from the National Association for Gifted Children, Dr. Deitz was recognized as Doctoral Student of the Year (2013) and received the A. Harry Passow Classroom Teacher Award in 2007. She also received NAGC's Curriculum Award in 2000 and the Non-Doctoral Student of the Year in 2001. She is the author of numerous articles on gifted education and is currently the immediate past president of the state's advocacy association, Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education, having served as president from 2018-2000.

**Personal Statement (200 words max) explaining why you want to serve an organization whose mission is to support those who enhance the growth and development of gifted and talented children through education, advocacy, community building, and research.**

From the classroom to Capitol Hill, I have a long and established history of advocacy for gifted and talented children at the local, state, and national level. Elementary educator by heart, I've pursued multiple degrees in gifted education in an effort to not only perfect my practice, but to assist other gifted education teachers to achieve their professional goals. I was among the country's first educators to achieve National Board Teacher Certification in gifted education. As such, I consistently share effective practices that raise the professional bar for gifted educators.

I currently serve my state as the immediate past president for Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education. As a NAGC's State Representative board member, I'll bring my 10 years of state executive board leadership. During my tenure as state president, we lobbied elected officials for support for Javits grants and other policies that provide talent development opportunities for underserved populations.

I have been an active and enthusiastic NAGC member for 20 years. In service to gifted children, I served as Chair and Conference Chair for the Middle Grade Network. Recently I served as co-chair of NAGC's Teacher Education Task Force and a member of the Whole Gifted Child Task Force.

**How would your knowledge, experience, abilities, and vision contribute to increasing the public's urgency to support the needs of gifted and talented children and youth (i.e., Minds)?**

My consistent actions speak to my support for gifted and talented children. As a young mother, I learned how parents provide an essential voice in helping the schools meet gifted children's learning needs. As an active leader in my state, I nurture teachers' involvement in school board activities and state legislative matters. Most recently I lobbied our state board of education to maintain high training standards for Advanced Placement teachers. I'm quite skilled and practiced at messaging. I will support NAGC's efforts to strengthen public perceptions of gifted programs and services through publications and social media.

**How would your knowledge, experience, abilities, and vision contribute to advocating for the adoption of policies that promote programs and services in which gifted and talented children thrive (i.e., Policies)?**

From the building level to the halls of Congress, I've advocated for gifted children's issues. Equal access to services and appropriate funding for gifted programs are by priority concerns. As a district GT coordinator and a member of a research team for Javits grants, I have extensive knowledge of talent searches in underserved populations. In serving as secretary and president of my state's gifted advocacy association, I have a thorough understanding how to advocate for policies at the state and national level. I am an enthusiastic participant at NAGC's Legislative Advocacy Conference and have lobbied support from elected representatives.

**How would your knowledge, experience, abilities, and vision contribute to empowering supporters to implement effective practices for all gifted and talented children and youth in homes, schools, and communities (i.e., Practices)?**

In 2017, I was one of two educators in my state who earned the first National Board Teacher certificate in gifted education. NAGC collaborated with National Board to create this new pathway for GT professionals. In the following years, I have mentored many teachers who pursued certification in gifted education. I've shared my knowledge of effective practices for gifted children through various publications and at state and national conferences. As a Board member, I'll continue support for our field's effective practices that raise the professional bar for gifted educators and positively impact gifted students in various learning environments.

