

SECA 2024 President Elect Candidates

SECA is poised to embark on several exciting opportunities to advance its mission and significantly impact early childhood education. Here are key prospects SECA can explore:

Dr. Jeffrey Leffler, MS



1. **Advancing Access, Opportunity, and Success:** SECA can lead efforts to promote opportunity and success for all children and families across the Southern region. By advocating for culturally responsive practices, supporting diversity-focused policies, and fostering inclusive learning environments, SECA can ensure all children access high-quality education that meets their unique needs.
2. **Expanding Professional Development:** SECA can expand its professional development offerings, providing educators with cutting-edge research, innovative practices, and skill-building opportunities. Offering diverse training programs, workshops, and certifications will support members' ongoing professional growth and development.
3. **Strengthening Partnerships:** By strengthening partnerships with other early childhood organizations, educational institutions, and community stakeholders, SECA can amplify its impact and reach. Collaborating on joint initiatives, sharing resources, and leveraging collective expertise can enhance SECA's capacity to address complex challenges and drive positive change.
4. **Advocating for Policy Change:** SECA can play a pivotal role in advocating for policies that prioritize early childhood education and support the needs of young children and their families in the South. Engaging policymakers, advocating for increased funding, and promoting evidence-based practices can influence policy decisions at local, state, and national levels.
5. **Harnessing Technology:** SECA can leverage technology to enhance outreach, communication, and member engagement. Utilizing digital platforms, online resources, and virtual events can reach a broader audience, facilitate networking and collaboration, and provide members with greater access to valuable resources and opportunities.
6. **Addressing Emerging Issues:** SECA can proactively address emerging issues and trends in early childhood education, such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, changing workforce demographics, and evolving family dynamics. Staying abreast of current research and trends will enable SECA to develop targeted initiatives and resources to support members effectively.
7. **Fostering Innovation:** SECA can foster a culture of innovation by encouraging experimentation, sharing best practices, and supporting research and development initiatives. Championing innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and program design will drive continuous improvement and excellence in early childhood education across the Southern region.

Overall, SECA has numerous opportunities to advance its mission, support its members, and make a lasting impact on young children and their families. Embracing these opportunities with enthusiasm and dedication, SECA can continue to be a driving force for positive change in early childhood education.

I am excited about the future opportunities that are available for SECA and its members. One of these opportunities is the possibility of partnering with other organizations, both public and private, to address the challenges that face childcare in the areas of the United States represented by SECA. Specifically, one future opportunity will be addressing the challenges that face childcare providers regarding the need for trained providers. Addressing this challenge will require action at the local, state, and national level.

With the growth of public childcare associated public education, there is also an opportunity to provide resources to private childcare providers to ensure that their students are meeting or exceeding the requirements for entry into the public education system.

I am excited about the future opportunities to engage our newest members in a mentorship program with our seasoned members. This would include the pairing of new members with current members at the SECA annual conference. Whether these new members are students or working professionals, these mentor partnerships provide opportunities for a highly collaborative environment for ongoing feedback and professional development. An opportunity for a one-on-one mentor relationship can provide a strong sense of belonging to the organization.

Dr. Judy Prine, MS



We'll periodically publish candidates bios, articles, videos on the SECA website at www.seca.info/presidentelect.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

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