

AIMEE GELNAW

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Objective

To secure a teaching and leadership position that provides opportunities to further the capacity of individuals of all ages to realize their desired potential and to employ my skills in building organizations, programs and local and national alliances.

Professional Experience

As an early childhood specialist and family and schools activist, my thirty years of experience — including faculty and chairperson positions in a community college Early Childhood Education department, teaching and child care administration, parent and family support, adult education and literacy development, professional development system building, and leadership in statewide and national family and schools activism — fuels and informs my passion for positive human and community development. I am eager to continue to engage opportunities to further advance capacity and equality for all people.

Areas of Expertise

Curriculum Design

Building Collaborative Learning Communities

Social Justice and Equity

Program Design and Evaluation

Event Production & Communications

Alliance Building

Selected Achievements

Faculty and Chairperson, *Early Childhood Education Department, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL*

- Taught ECE courses such as Child Growth and Development, Introduction to ECE, Infant/Toddler Development
- Coordinated and evaluated program team, arranged course schedules, ensured student support, provided academic advisement
- Recruited and facilitated community-based advisory board
- Provided leadership in college diversity initiatives and interdepartmental committees
- Developed community conferences enhancing quality of care for infants, toddlers and preschool children and their families
- Selected to serve on Academic VP search committee
- Provided oversight to campus child care center
- Coordinated site selection and supervised student field experiences

Executive Director, *Professional Impact NJ, Kean University, Union, New Jersey*

- Directed statewide project coordinating professional development for early childhood educators
- Facilitated Policy Advisory Board
- Built statewide multi-departmental and organizational school advocacy coalitions
- Developed Core Knowledge, Administrators' Credential and Infant-Toddler Credential publications and programs
- Oversaw coordination of NJ Professional Development Registry, scholarship distribution and NAEYC Accreditation Campaign
- Served on statewide BUILD committee, developing QRIS
- Presented at NAEYC Professional Development Institute
- Represented professional development interests on all statewide boards and committees
- Provided testimony to senate budget committee regarding quality infant/toddler care

Executive Director, *Family Equality Council (formerly Family Pride Coalition), Washington, DC.*

- Oversaw and directed growth of national not-for-profit providing advocacy, education and support for LGBT families
- Increased reach from 3500 to 35,000 contacts and budget by 130%
- Produced annual Family Week events, largest social/educational gatherings of LGBT families
- Created first ever Research Symposium on LGBT families with major university
- Represented organization and constituent families on national media and LGBT leadership committees

Marketing & Communications

Website development
Newsletters and e-newsletters
Programs and promotional materials

Keynote presentations
Online professional development

Consultation

Subject Matter Expert, Pacific Oaks College, developed MA program in ECE Leadership
Video Projects: “It’s Elementary” and “Both My Moms’ Names are Judy”
Welcoming Schools: A Comprehensive Guide for Creating LGBT-inclusive Elementary Schools

Publications

“Do No Harm: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Families in Early Childhood Settings,” *Young Children*, 2010
Contributing author, Chapter: “Learning About All Kinds of Families” for *Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves* by Louise Derman-Sparks and Julie Olsen Edwards, 2009
Making Room in the Circle: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Families in Early Childhood Settings, a college course curriculum, 2005
“Belonging: Including Children of Gay and Lesbian Parents — and All Children — in Your Program,” *Exchange*, 2005
Opening More Doors: Creating Policy Change to Include Our Families, 2003
“The Essential Outsider: Life as the Non-Bio Mom,” *Homefronts: Controversies in Non-Traditional Parenting*, 2000
“Talking to Children About Our Families,” FamilyNet Website, HRC, 2000
“Talking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” FamilyNet Website, HRC, 2000
Opening Doors: Lesbian and Gay Parents and Schools, 1999

Board Affiliations

Family Pride Coalition Board of Directors, 1996–2001
Montclair Cooperative School Board of Directors, 2006–2009
Welcoming Schools National Advisory Council, 2007–present

Employment History

Compassionate Conversations, 2010–present
Consulting
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), New York, NY, 2010
Consulting Director of Education
Professional Impact NJ, Kean University, Union, NJ, 2006–2010
Executive Director
Family Pride Coalition, Washington, DC, 2001–2005
Executive Director
Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL, 1997–2001
Chairperson/Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education Department
Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY, 1993–96
Early Childhood Specialist — Adult Literacy Program
Early Childhood Education, various positions, 1979–1993
Teaching, Administration, Family and Staff Support, Program Start-up and Development

Education

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY Ms. Ed., Early Childhood Education, 1996, GPA 4.0
Pace University, New York City, BPS, Early Childhood Education, 1982, GPA 4.0