

Kathryn Stennett, M. Ed.

2019 VOICE for Children Distinguished Career Award

Ms. Kathryn Stennett has extensive experience in the early childhood education field. She served as the Director of the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute (CAECTI) in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education at Penn State Harrisburg from 2002-2015. In this leadership role, Ms. Stennett coordinated professional development, technical assistance and Early Childhood Mental Health consultation services for the mid-state area in partnership with Child Care Consultants, Inc. As CAECTI Director, Ms. Stennett provided oversight and leadership of instructors and consultants working with child care programs in the Keystone STARS quality improvement program to ensure that children and families received high-quality early childhood education. She continued to coach and mentor early childhood professionals as a Technical Assistance Consultant, Instructor and Professional Development Specialist for the CDA Council until her retirement in December 2018.

Ms. Stennett has a B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Eastern University and completed a M. Ed. degree in Training and Development at Penn State University. She has taught second grade in the public school system locally, as well as in the DODDS elementary schools in Germany. Upon returning to the Harrisburg area, she served as a child care center director for a total of eight years before working as a child care consultant and staff instructor. Ms. Stennett held the position of Child Care Training Coordinator at Harrisburg Community College and worked as a part-time instructor in the Early Childhood Education Department.

In advocating for young children and quality child care programming, Ms. Stennett served on the board of the Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAAYC) in multiple leadership roles including President, Past-President, Committee Chair of the Festival of Fantasy, Co-Chair of the Director's Roundtable and CAAAYC Newsletter. She is currently serving on the Capital Area Chapter of PennAEYC's board as President. Ms. Stennett was a 2002 CAAAYC Golden Apple Award recipient for her work in the early childhood field. She also served as a program validator for the National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation.