

Annette L. Searfoss, Ph.D.

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"I am honored to serve Pennsylvania's early childhood community as President of PennAEYC's Board of Directors. Together with a growing Board of Directors, an outstanding Executive Director and dedicated team, we strive to be the voice of Pennsylvania's early childhood community."

Dr. Annette Searfoss is currently the President & CEO of First Start Partnerships for Children and Families (formerly Franklin County Head Start). First Start Partnerships serves 712 children and their families across Franklin County, including children in Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K Counts programs. Prior to leading the FSP Program, she was the Director of the Delaware Stars, a \$5.5 million state-wide system to rate and improve the quality of child care, Head Start and school-age programs for children and families.

Annette has directed regional or state programs for public and private child care, Head Start and preschool programs since 2001, responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating early childhood projects. She has lived in Franklin County, PA for more than twenty years, but worked primarily outside of the region until 2017. For thirteen of those years she was employed by APPLES for Children (the Alliance for Parent, Provider, and Local Employer Solutions), a regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency based in Hagerstown, Maryland.

In addition to her administrative experiences, she taught university courses at Shippensburg University, Penn State University, Francis Marion University (South Carolina), and the University of Delaware.

Dr. Searfoss completed her Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University in Curriculum and Instruction/Early Childhood Education, where she studied staff development systems that lead to improved outcomes for children, families and communities. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in Elementary Education, and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Shippensburg University.

Annette lives in Chambersburg, PA with her husband, Kevin, and dog, Molly. Her son, Nick, lives in Greencastle, PA with his wife, Megan and three-year old daughter, Isabelle. They are expecting their second child in April 2020. Annette's oldest son, Matthew, serves in the US Navy and is currently stationed in Jacksonville, FL with his wife, Andrea.

Annette Searfoss, Ph.D. *President & CEO*
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Our Mission: We partner with our families, schools, and communities to ensure that each child arrives ready for kindergarten.