

# Winter 2024 Newsletter

The Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children (OCAEYC) is a direct affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the foremost professional association for the early childhood field. Visit our website to learn more about our mission and work.

NAEYC Conference Update



OCAEYC Director Dr. Kristina Atler proudly represented Orange County at this year's NAEYC Conference, delivering an opening segment showcasing our impactful work in the early childhood education community. We highlighted our commitment to Anti-Biased Education and advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) initiatives, demonstrating our dedication to fostering an inclusive and equitable future for all.



OCAEYC President Dr. Cheryl Sosa delivered an inspiring welcome to open this year's NAEYC Conference, celebrating the remarkable contributions OCAEYC has made to the early childhood education community. She highlighted our ongoing dedication to supporting and uplifting ECE professionals, showcasing the impactful work that continues to drive our mission forward.

# OCAEYC Booth at 2024 NAEYC Conference



President Dr. Cheryl Sosa and Past President Sarah Shawesh proudly represented OCAEYC at this year's NAEYC Conference, extending a warm welcome to new members and fostering connections within our vibrant early childhood education community.



Pictured here, our Public Policy Board Chair Wilhelmina Burghard and Social Media Board Chair Vanessa Sener proudly showcase the impactful work they are dedicated to at the OCAEYC Exhibitor Booth, engaging attendees and highlighting our mission in the ECE community.



OCAEYC's Secretary Raissa Lee and Membership Services Committee Board Chair Poly Pantelidou-Zweigle beam with enthusiasm as they proudly represent OCAEYC, sharing their passion for supporting the ECE community!

### OCAEYC and Debbie LeeKeenan on Anti-Bias Education



OCAEYC's recent event, featuring Debbie LeeKeenan's work on anti-bias education, was a resounding success, selling out and welcoming over 100 participants.

Attendees engaged with the 48-minute film "Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years," produced by Debbie LeeKeenan and John Nimmo.



This documentary presents vignettes of anti-bias strategies in early childhood classrooms, highlighting teachers' reflections on their practices. By focusing on the voices of educators committed to daily equity, the film emphasizes the significance of teacher reflection on identity, context, and practice in anti-bias education.



Pictured here, Debbie LeeKeenan and Director Dr. Kristina Atler share a heartfelt moment of gratitude and collaboration, celebrating their shared commitment to advancing Anti-Bias Education within the Early Childhood Education community.

#### Committee Highlights 2024-2025

OCAEYC has several committees that help guide our work. These committees are chaired by our Board Members At Large.

For further information regarding our committees or if you are interested in being a part of any of our committees, please email our <u>Board Development Chair.</u>

## **OCAEYC Board Meetings**

OCAEYC holds General Board Meetings on a bi-monthly basis. Current members of OCAEYC receive email invitations to attend as they are open to all members.

Our next Board Meeting will be on Thursday December 12th, 6:30pm-8:00pm

If you would like to request an item be added to the agenda, or are not a member of OCAEYC but are interested in attending, please <u>email us</u>.

## **NEWS!** Peer Guide Program in Daily Pilot



#### Daily Pilot Article

Operated by First 5 of Orange County and supported by OCAEYC and other esteemed ECE organizations, the Peer Guide Program is designed to help individuals take the first steps toward establishing and licensing their own childcare businesses.

Click the below link to check out recent article in The Daily Pilot!

Building oases in a child-care desert, First 5 O.C. class helps women start home day cares

Save the Date: OCAEYC Conference March 29th

**OCAEYC** 

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