

Secretary Nominee

Learn more about our candidate for secretary using the link below their name, where they have addressed the following questions:

- *Why are you interested in serving as the Secretary on the Iowa AEYC Governing Board?*
- *What experiences and qualifications do you bring with you that would help elevate Iowa AEYC and support efforts to be a more inclusive organization?*
- *Why do you think it is important to support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children?*



Melanie Cox Wyant

Melanie Cox Wyant lives in Lewis, Iowa, where she and her husband Chris have built a life rooted in family and community. Together, they have raised seven children and are now proud grandparents to three.

Melanie's journey in early childhood education began at home, where she provided in-home childcare for several years while raising her own children. This experience deepened her understanding of child development and the vital role caregivers play in shaping young lives. Her passion for nurturing children and supporting families led her to leadership roles in center-based care, including serving as an on-site supervisor for a school district program and later for a nonprofit center.

For the past two years, Melanie has served as the on-site supervisor — and now director — of Kids in the Village in Elk Horn, Iowa. In this role, she leads with compassion, clarity, and a deep commitment to inclusive, high-quality care. She is currently pursuing her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education to further strengthen her practice and advocacy.

Melanie holds her National Administrator Credential (NAC) and is an active member of both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Child Care Association. Her leadership is grounded in lived experience, professional growth, and a belief that every child — and every educator — deserves to be seen, supported, and celebrated.

Whether she's mentoring staff, engaging families, or building systems that reflect rural voices, Melanie brings heart, vision, and a deep sense of purpose to everything she does.