

Laura L. McCarty

(571) 228-0176 | laura.mccarty13@gmail.com | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauramccarty13>

Early childhood education thought leader, consultant, and changemaker known for innovations that advance collaborative efforts to ensure all children have equitable access to a high-quality education. Dynamic facilitator of grassroots collaborations founded on strong relationships. Proven ability to catalyze meaningful system change by convening, aligning, and mobilizing diverse stakeholders around complex issues.

Experience

Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children

President: 6/2024 – 6/2026, President-Elect: 6/2023 – 6/2024

Board Secretary: 6/2022 – 6/2024

- Partner with Governing Board and President on organizational mission, alignment, and six-figure budget. Lead key projects and initiatives while developing executive platform for upcoming term focused on increasing membership, supporting advocacy efforts, and augmenting funding.
- Establish and foster strong collaborative relationships with early childhood professionals, families, businesses, and elected officials to ensure affordable, accessible child care and early childhood education.
- Forge a coalition to advocate for the needs of the workforce at the state and federal levels. Recent highlights include establishing monthly online training sessions for up to 50 participants, creating and facilitating advocacy training seminars for 75 participants, and planning and facilitating meetings with elected officials.
- Co-Lead Advocacy Leadership Training Program where selected educators, advocates, directors, and parents engage in facilitated weekly sessions designed to teach and support grassroots advocacy skills.

Division for Early Childhood (DEC), CEC Special Interest Division

Co-Facilitator, Policy & Advocacy Community of Practice: 1/2023 – 1/2024

Policy & Advocacy Committee Member: 6/2023 - Current

- Interpret and forecast evolving policy topics and trends to facilitate national bi-monthly discussions and strategic planning sessions for local, state, and federal advocacy initiatives.
- Launched and led grassroots advocacy training for up to 75 attendees on topics such as budget, funding, and legislative impact at the federal level in early childhood.
- Tapped to design and implement long-term membership plan to recruit a diverse, national coalition of experts in government relations, public policy, higher education, and early childhood.

District of Columbia Public Schools

MTSS Specialist: 8/2021 – 1/2024

Urban Education Leaders Internship Program Associate (UELIP) Intern: 2/2021 – 4/2021

- Transform school culture and student outcomes and experience at 12 urban schools where 50-70% of 51,241 students historically perform below grade level by empowering school staff and administrators to critically analyze systems, structures, and procedures, and identify bias.
- Led school teams to reimagine systems and structures resulting in a 19% improvement on statewide assessments.
- Spearhead cross-disciplinary project between MTSS and ECE to address implementation gap and data systems in mission-critical district initiatives.
- Built trusted stakeholder partnerships that prioritized equity and historical context for ECE advocacy and inclusive practices resulting in ECE-specific resources, training, and supports.
- Design and facilitate resources, and materials, including monthly and quarterly professional development, for groups of 50 to 300 educators, administrators, and district-level supervisors to enhance performance.

Northern Virginia Community College

Adjunct Faculty (Childhood Development): 10/2021 – Current

- Advise and mentor diverse student population to ensure long-term personal academic pursuits are met.
- Lead the next generation of educators through intentionally designed instruction, strong relationships, critical feedback, and fostering a rigorous learning environment.

Loudoun County Public Schools

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher: 8/2013 – 6/2021

Special Education Paraprofessional: 10/2009 – 8/2013

- Acted as lead mentor for new educators and cadet teachers. Interviewed, hired, and onboarded staff completing regular performance evaluations and developing corrective action plans as needed.
- Planned and implemented individualized programs in collaboration with multiple stakeholders.
- Conducted performance gap analysis to assess current state and prioritize performance issues based on organizational goals, developed written quarterly reports, and adjusted strategic plan.

Sylvan Learning Center

Assistant Director: 6/2011 – 8/2013

- Managed team of 25 educators to ensure high-quality learning experiences for all students.
- Developed and implemented a training strategy with corresponding curriculum to achieve organizational goals.
- Contributed to the development of long-term business plan including financial goals, enrollment projections, marketing strategies, and customer and staff recruitment and retention.

Salient Early and Legal Career Accomplishments

Franklin County Animal Shelter, Volunteer Coordinator: 7/2002 – 6/2003

- Oversaw training, recruitment, and retention of a 200-member volunteer workforce.

Ohio Attorney General, Capital Crimes Division, Legal Intern: 8/2001 – 12/2001

McCord, Pryor & Associates, Law Clerk: 5/2001 – 8/2001

Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, Inc., Administrative & Legal Assistant: 9/1997 – 9/1999

- Researched, synthesized, and tracked criminal and civil state and state federal, regulations, and case law.

Honors & Affiliations

DC Public Schools Exemplary Staff Member: 2022

Nominee

Presidential Management Fellow: 2022 Finalist

GW New Venture Competition: 2022 Top 100 Finalist

Main Street Alliance: Member and Organizer

League of Women Voters: Member

NAEYC: 2021 President's Emerging Leadership Circle

NVAEYC: Advocacy & Finance Committee, Advocacy

Leadership Training Program Co-Facilitator

Education

Ed.S. Educational Leadership & Administration,

George Washington University

M.Ed. Special Education, George Mason University

J.D., Capital University Law School

B.A. English & Psychology, University of New Mexico

Certifications & Licenses

Postgraduate Professional License, Commonwealth of

Virginia #PGP-0673612

Early Childhood Special Education Certification,

University of Lynchburg

Early Intervention Professional Infant & Toddler

Connection of Virginia

Certified Pre-K CLASS Observer

Certified ScrumMaster

Recent Presentations

- *Empowering Educators to Impact Policy Through the Art of Storytelling*, VAAEYC Annual Conference: 3/2024
- *Facilitating Change Through Advocacy*, National Association for the Education of Young Children: 11/2023
- *Using the Power of Your Story to Empower Your Advocacy*, DEC Annual Conference: 11/2023
- *Music and Movement*, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children: 9/2023
- *Recruiting & Retaining More Men into the Early Childhood Profession*, Gender Equity Conference: Men in Early Childhood Education: 4/2023
- *Creating the Learning Environment*, Northern Virginia Community College: 4/2021