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## RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT: DIANNA WALLACE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN, December 20** – After 40 years of dedicated service in the field of early childhood, the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children would like to announce the retirement of Dianna Wallace as Executive Director, a position she has held since 1998. Under her leadership, the Association has experienced considerable growth and navigated changes and advancements. Ms. Wallace has worked very closely with the Executive Committee over the past two years to ensure the organization continues to thrive after her retirement.

Ms. Wallace has been recognized at the local, state, and national level as a "champion" for young children, families, and early childhood educators. Since 1998, thousands of early childhood educators have received scholarships to complete credentials, certificates and degrees under her leadership. She leaves a legacy of respect, compassion, and service for young children and those who work with and on their behalf every day. Ms. Wallace was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Frank O'Bannon for her significant contribution and service to the lives of young children, families, and educators in the Hoosier state.

The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC) Board salutes her for a stellar career in early childhood education and thanks her for the contribution to the organization, young children, families, and educators. Join the INAEYC Board and Staff in celebrating Dianna's accomplishments and service on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the 2024 Indiana Early Childhood Conference, Indianapolis Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Indiana AEYC Executive Committee, under the direction of the Board, will be conducting a search for the Executive Director position. Mr. Ed Hoy, Indiana AEYC Senior Director of Operations has been appointed as the Interim Executive Director during the search.

"The Indiana AEYC Board is committed to maintaining and sustaining our mission during this transition while honoring Ms. Wallace's accomplishments and legacy" Christine Garza Bell, Indiana AEYC Board President.

## **ABOUT INDIANA AEYC:**

As the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Indiana AEYC is a statewide, nonprofit organization serving Indiana at the local, state, and national levels. Indiana AEYC has a long history of promoting and supporting quality care and education for all young children, birth through age eight, in Indiana. Our mission is carried out through professional development opportunities, quality program improvement initiatives, and as a champion with public policy pertinent to young children.

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