



Enrica O. Hampton

ELAC Representation: Regional Advisor - SOAR King County Early Learning Coalition

Occupation: Early Care and Education Consultant

City/Region: King County

Getting to know YOU:

What drew you to early learning?

I worked in several child care programs as a teenager and young adult with children ranging in age from 2 months – 6 years old. I discovered that I had a real passion for working with young children. Resources for children, families, and providers were very limited in the programs in which I worked. Experiencing this firsthand is what drew me to early learning. It ignited a desire in me to help change the early learning system in order to - Raise the quality of early care and education; Support the individual needs of young children and families; and Ensure that resources are available to support the work of providers in the field.

How do you hope to influence a stronger early learning system for Washington?

I represent the SOAR King County Early Learning Coalition. Our vision is that all young children and families receive individualized, culturally and linguistically responsive services necessary to flourish in home, school, and in life. The SOAR King County Early Learning Coalition envisions an early learning system that is – Free of racial inequities; Culturally sensitive and linguistically relevant; Responsive to the individual needs and unique circumstances of children and families; Inclusive in addressing the needs of children with disabilities, developmental delays, behavior challenges, and special health care needs; Supportive of the complex and varied needs of providers in the field of early learning; Informed by diverse community voices; and Easy to access and welcoming to families. As the coalition representative, I hope to share the perspectives of the coalition with ELAC to help influence a stronger early learning system.

What was your first job?

My very first paid position was as an aide in a skilled nursing facility. I quickly discovered that this was not the right job match for me and “resigned” after 3 days. Shortly thereafter I went to work as a substitute teacher in a child care program and have been involved in early learning ever since.



Enrica O. Hampton

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

As a young child I initially wanted to be a nurse and follow in my mother's footsteps. In junior high and high school I read several books written by teachers who shared their experiences working with young children with various developmental disabilities and behavior challenges. It was at this point that I knew I wanted to become a teacher and work with young children. I eventually went to graduate school where I earned my Doctorate in special education with an early childhood focus..

What is your favorite childhood memory?

One of my favorite childhood memories is flying with my mother and brother to visit my grandmother. My grandmother took us to visit people in skilled nursing facilities where we would distribute food/care packages to the residents. This experience left a very positive, long-lasting impression on me.