



Sandra Szambelan

ELAC Representation: Regional Advisor - Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance

Occupation: Director, Center for Early Childhood Services at NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101

City/Region: Spokane (Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Adams, Whitman and Spokane Counties)

Getting to know YOU:

What drew you to early learning?

I have always enjoyed working with and on behalf of young children and families. Building relationships by listening and learning and working in partnership with families to ultimately support the success of their child.

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

To influence a stronger early learning system, my role is to bring forward the diverse, unique perspectives of the region I represent to build stronger communication and connections between the local and state levels. This will develop a more informed, responsive decision/recommendation-making system.

What was your first job?

My first job was babysitting.

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

I always knew I wanted to work with young children as either a teacher or a counselor.

What is your favorite childhood memory?

Playing outside, all day and into the evening, with my neighborhood friends and family. We would build forts, swim, and pretend we were famous explorers.