



CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Terese C. "Tisa" Aceves

**Professor and Chair
School of Education
Loyola Marymount University**

Playa del Rey, CA, USA



**REMEMBER TO VOTE!
Sept. 23 – Oct. 21, 2020**

Candidate Statements:

What inspired you to apply to the Board of Directors? (Limit 150 words.)

I am currently serving on CEC's Board of Directors and believe that what originally inspired me to join, still remains true today. I am passionate about CEC as an organization that represents the profession of services and supports for all children and youth with abilities, unique needs, and their families. I strongly believe that if we are to build up, strengthen, and grow our profession we need a professional organization like CEC to represent our voice, advocate for our needs as educators and researchers, and provide training and mentorship to improve our work. While serving on the Board I have been further inspired by the opportunity to work shoulder-to-shoulder with my peers in administration, classroom instruction, research, and policy development. They are my inspiration to do more for the profession and do it better.

Describe how your leadership experiences, professional or volunteer, have had an impact on fostering change. (Limit 250 words.)

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve my community, university, and CEC in multiple ways that I believe contribute significantly to students and families.

Over the past 16 years, I have actively worked with parent organizations to establish purposeful opportunities to support families. I collaborate with an advocacy training program that serves approximately 250 families throughout Los Angeles and neighboring regions. I have contributed to the program's curriculum and evaluation. Through this work, I believe my contributions have supported the program's growth and families' ability to learn and actively use the skills they need to advocate for their child.

Currently at LMU, I serve as a department Chair within the School of Education. In this position I have bridged my work with parent advocacy and community collaboration with my work in preparing the next generation of educational professionals. Designing major shifts in course development has provided my community with much needed services and supports including screening, professional development, consultation and academic instruction for underserved communities.

As a member of CEC, I have contributed in multiple ways to foster change at a time of great transition for our organization. In addition to serving as the Chair of the Diversity committee for the Division for Research and on the Board of Directors, I have also served on CEC's Standards Development Workgroup to develop the new preparation standards. This work involved multiple discussions, drafts and edits, to develop the standard language, components, supporting explanations, and knowledge base for the new standards. This work has been pivotal in supporting initial and ongoing training expectations for beginning special education teachers moving forward.

What are your three major achievements and/or experiences that will help you be successful on the board and why? (Limit 150 words.)

Three major experiences that will enhance my continued success on the board include 1) my experience as department Chair for my university, 2) my role as chair of the Diversity Committee for the Division for Research, and 3) my experience this last year as the chair of the diversity workgroup while serving on the Board. For each experience I have been given complex and sometimes emotionally charged issues to address, tight timelines to adhere to, with a need to be solution focused, productive and professional. I strongly believe I have greatly benefited from these experiences that could potentially serve as a foundation for my continued work on the Board. During this incredible time we find ourselves in, the board must remain nimble and ready to do the difficult but meaningful work to increase our relevance in the field and support our members and stakeholders. I believe the experiences I describe have prepared me for this challenge.

People who apply to a Board of Directors usually stress their communication and collaboration skills. What three additional skills would you bring to the board and how do you believe they would be beneficial? (Limit 150 words)

In order to answer this question, I would like to describe my shift from “faculty” to department “Chair” over the last two years at my university. The shift in responsibilities coincidentally overlapped with my first years serving on the Board. This shift has been a true journey for me that has sharpened my skills in problem solving, advocacy, counseling, and now emergency response coordination. I have leaned into this important role including assisting with the transition of our new Dean this summer. Similarly, as a member of the Board, I have advocated for the needs of our stakeholders including teachers, faculty, and unit and division leaders during conversations regarding CEC’s next steps. I do not shy away from difficult conversations but have engaged in these discussions in a professional and respectful manner, trying always to pull in diverse perspectives. These skills should support our work on the Board to address complex issues.

Other than time, what would the biggest challenges be for serving on the board and how would you address this/these challenge(s)? (Limit 150 words.)

It may not be apparent to anyone who has seen me engage with people professionally, but I do struggle, at least internally when asked to speak in public. The nerves are definitely there, but my strategy is always to speak to my strengths, talk about what I know, experience, and am passionate about, and above all listen to those around me. I never let my nerves prevent me from speaking up about a topic or contributing to a conversation. I would never have volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors had I intended to serve in silence and rely on the ideas and voices of others to represent my own thinking. I take my position on the Board seriously and could not imagine not engaging in the thoughtful and sometimes difficult dialogue we have on matters intended to support the viability and growth of our organization.

Professional Position(s) and Education:

Primary Professional Position:

Professor, Chair
School of Education, Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles, California, USA

Highest Degree:

Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, Special Education, Disability & Risk Studies

CEC Membership Information:

Years of CEC Membership: 20 years

Division Membership(s):

Division for Research (CEC-DR)

Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)

Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD)

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