



ASHLIE ABERCROMBIE ALLARDYCE

Early Childhood Special Educator

Calcasieu Parish School Board

Lake Charles, Louisiana, USA



REMEMBER TO VOTE!
Oct. 11 -26, 2021

Learn what inspired Ashlie to apply for the Board of Directors.

[Watch the video.](#) [Read the transcript.](#)

Biographical Information:

Ashlie Abercrombie Allardyce, M.Ed., +30 is an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher with the Calcasieu Parish School Board in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She teaches children with various developmental delays 3 to 5 years of age. She has taught in Calcasieu Parish for the past 15½ years as a special educator in the classroom and throughout the community. Ashlie has also taught Early Childhood Special Education classes as an adjunct teacher at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Ashlie is a 16-year member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). She actively serves on the CEC and Division of Early Childhood (DEC) state boards, state and national committees, and routinely makes presentations. Since 2007, she has had the pleasure of serving on the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's Board (LACEC) board in various capacities. In addition, she has served on the Louisiana Subdivision of Early Childhood's Board (LADEC) since 2006. Currently, Ashlie is serving on the LACEC and LADEC Boards as Past-President.

In 2012 Ashlie was selected as the LACEC's Teacher of the Year Award Winner. The following year, in 2013, she was awarded the CEC's Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award.

Ashlie is the wife of David and mother of three children, Noah, age 12; Anna Kate, age 9; and Lillian, age 7. Her husband, David, passed away due to complications from Covid-19 in March 2021. Ashlie's journey with her husband has provided her with confirmation of her passion for special education. Through this experience, she recognized that many individuals in hospitals do not have advocates, empowered families, or their own voice.

Ashlie's experiences with her husband, and as a parent of exceptional children, has fueled her emphasis on the importance of inclusion, advocacy, education, support of families, collaboration, and mentoring teachers. It is imperative to have these components in education to make a difference for all our students, from home to the classroom.

Candidate Statements:

Describe how your leadership experiences, professional or volunteer, have had an impact on fostering change.

As a professional, volunteer, leader, and parent I have seen the effects of change. For the past 16 years I have been a volunteer in the children's ministry of my local church. During these years I have seen a move toward inclusion. I have children with various exceptionalities in my preschool and elementary classes. When teaching, I use the children as peer models for each other, mentors, and social examples. They understand teamwork and how we are a family accepting all our differences. Parents have comfort and acceptance of how their children are included with their peers at church and our church has seen a growth in the number of children with exceptionalities participating in our children's ministry.

The same inclusive model is used in the Head Start sites within my school district. As a special education teacher, mentoring new general education teachers and providing inclusive supports within the classrooms has changed how my students are accepted and taught. It is not only me, but teachers, paraeducators, and students who are changed for the better.

Leadership experiences on the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LACEC) and Louisiana Division of Early Childhood (LADEC) Boards have fostered change in how we provide professional development, connect, and support educators within our state. We provide a yearly State Special Education conference and have utilized more hands-on experiences, membership incentives, and have built bridges among the state department of education and school districts resulting in positive responses.

People who apply to a Board of Directors usually stress their communication and collaboration skills. Describe up to three additional skills you would bring to the board and how you believe they would be beneficial.

Three skills I would bring to the CEC Board would be leadership, relationship building, and advocacy. Leadership skills include motivating others, solving problems, being innovative, and accepting responsibility. Bringing my leadership skills to the Board would help to successfully implement their desired goals, passions, and initiatives. Building relationships is vital to successful collaboration and utilizing team member's strengths. As a Board member, my ability to build positive relationships would encourage others to share ideas, utilize strengths, and develop team players is vital to the success of CEC.

As an advocate, I am passionate about supporting families and students. Having three children with learning disabilities, I have been blessed by others providing assistance, education, and advocacy for my family. As a leader and educator, I do the same for my students and their parents. As a CEC Board member, advocating would mean empowering, educating, and giving parents the tools they need.

Describe up to three major achievements and/or experiences that will help you be successful on the board and why.

LACEC and LADEC Board experiences gave me opportunities to serve in various leadership roles including treasurer, membership chair, and president, and to work with others with the same heart and goals. I learned how to make major decisions that affected me, others, and organizations. During this pandemic, I have learned more than ever to bend and change along with my students and parents. I have reflected on being a Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year (2013) recipient and how being in the classroom led to that achievement. I understand the daily struggles parents, students, educators, and service providers are facing. I am experiencing the educational challenges that CEC as well as federal, state, and local governments are trying to address and support which will allow me success on the Board.

These three unique experiences have grown and matured me as a leader, providing me with multiple opportunities to experience success.

Professional Position and Education:

Professional Position: Early Childhood Special Educator

Highest Degree:

M.Ed.-University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Master's in Curriculum and Instruction-2005

M.Ed.- Texas Tech University, Master's in Special Education-Deaf Education, 2020

Master's Plus 30-2019

CEC Membership Information:

Years of CEC Membership: 16 years

Division Membership(s):

- Division for Communication, Language and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DCD)
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC)

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