

Name	Megan Schumaker-Murphy
Introduction	I'm Megan Schumaker-Murphy and I'm excited to running for DEC's Member-at-Large. I'm an assistant professor at Salem State University. When I was a practitioner, I looked to DEC's recommended practices and journals as guide posts in my own professional development. . I want to deepen my service to the field by serving on the executive board. I believe increasing provider awareness of adoption DEC recommended practices will help to address priorities of inclusion, overcoming implicit bias, responding appropriately to challenging behaviors, creating strong family partnerships and supporting an effective workforce.
Background and Professional Experience	I'm a new assistant professor at Salem State University, teaching in the early education and care department. A practitioner at heart, I spent the first decade of my career in direct service as an early intervention provider in Chicago, Illinois and then more recently was the early childhood advisor for an Early Head Start program in Chicago. Before moving to Massachusetts, I taught early intervention courses at DePaul University. My research relates to family engagement, specifically what fathers' experience when their children are involved in early intervention programs.
Leadership Experience	From 2015-2017, a state budget impasse threatened to limit access to early intervention services in Illinois. During this time, as legislative chair of the Illinois Developmental Therapy Association, I worked collaboratively with other advocacy organizations to lead online and letter writing campaigns, identified early intervention recipients and service providers to speak at a rally in the state capital, met with legislators, and testified in front of the Illinois legislators. I adamantly believe that advocacy is the responsibility of all early childhood educators and know this experience will enhance my ability to advocate on behalf of DEC.
Brief Bio	Dr. Schumaker-Murphy is an assistant professor at Salem State University. Prior to becoming a professor, Dr. Schumaker-Murphy worked as a direct service provider in early intervention for about ten years and as the early childhood advisor for a Chicago Early Head Start program. Dr. Schumaker-Murphy's research focuses on family-centered practices and family engagement, with a focus on the experiences of fathers with children enrolled in early intervention programs.