

Statement of Teri Harnik



My name is Teri Harnik and I have been an early education teacher with LAUSD for over 28 years. In that time I have been a vice-chapter chair, a chapter chair and I am currently your UTLA Early Education committee chair.

Over the years, some of my greatest joys have been watching the light bulb go on in our student's eyes, that "ahh haa" moment. As the Early Education committee chair I have had that same experience with our UTLA brothers and sisters as I explain to them who we are, what we do and what we need. Our current union leaders not only asked for advice and input regarding the current contract negotiations, in regards to what the Early Education teacher needs were, but they listened and implemented those needs into our contract negotiations. More than that, I was invited to present our needs to LAUSD at the negotiating table. I'm honored and excited to be a part of a union that listens to all of its members like this.

I will continue to spread the word of all the good work we as early educators do, of the foundations we build, how we are not babysitters or nursery school teachers, but we are educators. We write lesson plans, have parent conferences and we complete DRDP's.

I will continue trying to educate as many as possible, that when referring to a child's education, we should refer to it as pre-K through 12, because that's when the foundation begins, in the preschool years, in our classes.

With this opening on the Board of Directors, I believe I am the best person to continue supporting all we have done, moving forward and blazing new trails for us as we continue our growth.

Thank you for your time and for your vote.

Teri Harnik
Early Education Committee Chair