AEA Board Candidates
Board President-Elect Candidates

Rakesh Mohan
Veronica Olazabal
Candidate Name: Rakesh Mohan
Board Position Candidacy: President-Elect
Title: Director, Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE)
Affiliation: Idaho State Legislature
Discipline: Evaluation, Performance Auditing, Public Administration, Management
Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: Practitioner
Geographic Representation: Northwest Mountain Region, USA
Area(s) of Work Application: Public Policy & Program Improvement, Legislative Oversight
AEA Member Since: 1992
AEA Positions Held:
  - Annual Conference Presidential Program Team (member 2020)
  - Editorial Advisory Board, American Journal of Evaluation (member since 2014)
  - Evaluation Policy Task Force (member 2013–16)
  - Editorial Advisory Board, New Directions for Evaluation (member 2004–12)
  - Finance Committee (member 2011–13; chair in 2012)
  - Board of Directors (member 2008–10)
  - Publications Committee (member 2004–06; chair in 2005)

Nominee Statement

I joined AEA nearly three decades ago when discussion among evaluators was centered around evaluation methods, standards, and rigor. Rarely did we address equity, diversity, inclusion, social and racial justice, and amplifying voices of marginalized people. Evaluators everywhere are now feeling a new sense of interconnectedness; we are passionately talking about using evaluation to move toward a sustainable, equitable future. Working toward such an ambitious goal, however, has become increasingly difficult in turbulent times highlighted by political divisiveness and parochial interests.

Against this backdrop, we evaluators have a responsibility to do what Civil Rights icon John Lewis called “getting in good trouble,” and the way Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg advised, “do it in a way that will lead others to join.”

Vision

We need strategic partnerships with other disciplines, professional organizations, and public and private institutions. We must build a big enough tent to allow rich exchanges of diverse ideas and perspectives from people of different social, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds. Under this big tent, we will use our collective and creative talents to tackle the wicked problems of today and tomorrow.
Because of its strong membership base, AEA is in an excellent position to take our efforts to the next level—promote evaluation use among those who make and influence public policies. We can leverage the knowledge and networks of our members, TIGs, and Local Affiliates to partner with non-evaluation organizations that have access to policymakers and understand the complexities of public policy environments. These new partnerships will help identify policy actors and influencers, explain to them what evaluation is, and begin an ongoing dialogue on how to make evidence-based policy decisions. All evaluators can play a role in this facet of the work.

We need to engage with people—policymakers, the public, and the press. This will require AEA to work closely with members, TIGs, and Local Affiliates to continue to develop high quality training in key areas such as communication, stakeholder and community engagement, leadership, and evaluation skills with a focus on equity and cultural diversity. Educating evaluators through our professional associations—via online opportunities and local and national conferences—is another way to invite all evaluators at all levels and in all sectors to the table.

Qualifications

Having conducted independent evaluations in a high-stakes, political environment, I have learned how to listen, respect, trust, and persuade people with competing and conflicting interests. As director of Idaho’s legislative Office of Performance Evaluations for nearly 18 years, the most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing the difference my office makes for the citizens of Idaho. I am proud of my staff whose work was recognized by AEA with the 2016 Outstanding Evaluation Award and the 2011 Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Government Evaluation Award—each for conducting utilization-focused evaluations that were used by policymakers and stakeholders.

I have had the privilege to serve AEA in various leadership roles, experiences that will enable me to build consensus among leaders of our association and strategically chart a course of action that will move us forward in these turbulent times. I have been a member of the board, chair of the publications and finance committees, chair of the Government TIG, member of the editorial advisory board of both AEA journals, and member of the Evaluation Policy Task Force.

My leadership experience with other professional organizations gives me a broad perspective on how to extend the influence of evaluation through building new partnerships with both evaluation and non-evaluation organizations. I served on the US Comptroller General’s Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards and on the executive committee of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society. My experience on the evaluation advisory committee of the Voices for Healthy Kids—a national joint initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Heart Association to reduce childhood obesity—has reinforced my belief in the value of partnerships with foundations and nonprofits to accomplish mutual goals. My experience with boards of two Idaho nonprofits gives me a solid understanding of the important role evaluators play in the nonprofit sector, a backbone of our social infrastructure.

By engaging AEA members and working collaboratively with others, I believe I have the unique combination of knowledge and experience to effectively lead our association in promoting evaluation use among those who make and influence public policies here at home and abroad. If I earn the privilege and honor to serve as your president, I will lead our efforts toward building a sustainable, equitable future for all.
I am thrilled to be running for President-Elect of our association and believe I have the energy, resilience, and strategic vision needed to guide AEA through this next phase in our association's history!

WHAT DO I STAND FOR?
I have served AEA in various roles since it became my professional home in 2010. This exposure, combined with my more than two decades of management experience in research and evaluation, has given me important perspective on the evolution and future of our profession’s trajectory as well as highlighted the institutional challenges that lie before us.

In particular, I feel motivated to address some of the most pressing questions we as an association will need to confront in a post-Covid19 world:

■ First, the demand for evaluation is changing rapidly and only we have the ability to ensure we remain relevant in this new, data-rich and tech-oriented world. I have seen this through my own work as an evaluation commissioner and through engaging with diverse stakeholders while conducting and managing numerous evaluations. How can we responsibly uphold the foundations of our field while adapting to the needs of this new, contact-less, world?

■ Second, our world is divided, and we run the risk of allowing these divisions to impact our association and our evaluation practice. As evaluators, we come from varying schools of thought and walks of life yet are united by the pursuit to see our evaluation and research results used and impacting people and communities. How can we leverage our diversity and advance our collective practice in ways that are equitable and inclusive for all AEA members?

■ And finally, evidence-based decision-making is in crisis. There is urgency here that has implications for our membership of ~7,000 and for the young and emerging evaluators who represent the future of our field. How can we best consider this current state of affairs, particularly amidst shrinking public dollars and a decreased appetite for accountability?
WHO AM I?
Over the last decade, like many of you, I have invested blood, sweat and tears into AEA in a range of ways—from chairing the International and Cross-Cultural Evaluation (ICCE) TIG and founding the Social Impact Measurement (SiM) TIG, through to review of countless conference proposals, and support of conference sessions as a panelist, moderator and chair. In 2014, I humbly accepted the AEA Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Evaluation Practice Award, and since then have worked to embody the Myrdals’ mission to improve society through social science and evaluation.

You elected me to the AEA Board in 2016 and in this role, I served as the Board Liaison to the Task Force on Membership Engagement, Diversity, and Leadership Development as well as contributed to establishing our association’s policy-based governance management practices. During this time, I also served on the International Working Group (IWG), on the review committee for the AEA Summer Institute and as a regular contributor to AEA 365 A Tip-a-Day.

When not serving AEA, I spend my time as Senior Adviser and Director of Measurement and Evaluation at The Rockefeller Foundation. And, aiming to bring evaluative thinking to private sector decision-making, I serve on numerous funding and advisory boards focused on sustainability such as the World Benchmarking Alliance and Tonic. Relatedly, I have published several articles focused on this topic in the American Journal of Evaluation and the African Evaluation Journal as well as co-authored a recent chapter in The Global Handbook of Impact Investing published by Wiley Publishers.

Finally, I am a parent, a spouse and a dog-lover and aim to contribute to equitable opportunities as the co-President of my daughter’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and volunteering for my son’s cub scouts den (which enables them to be gender neutral).

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE FOR ME?
In sum, like many Americans, my background is of mixed descent. I am a person of color, born of an Asian-African Peruvian lineage, and fortunate enough to have won the birth lottery of being born in the U.S. Given our current political situation, you can imagine my journey to this place has not been easy. It has taken perseverance, endurance, bravery, patience and support from many mentors, allies and friends. And if elected, you can bet that I will leverage every ounce of privilege I have had access to, to build on the work of my AEA predecessors and transition us into this next phase in our association’s history.
Board Member-at-Large Candidates

Scott Chaplowe
Leanne Kallemeyn
Xiaoxia Newton
Maurice Samuels
Susan Wolfe
Guili Zhang
I do not take lightly the honor of being nominated for the AEA Board. Never has so much been at stake for us as an Association, and as inhabitants on this planet. Science points to a near-term collapse of humanity if our relationship with nature and ourselves continues business-as-usual. This is underscored by the current convergence of pandemic, global warming, racism, growing inequality, social unrest, and political authoritarianism. As a professional association dedicated to systematic inquiry for the enhancement of the public good, we have “skin in the game.”

Crisis provides opportunity to re-evaluate and build back better. If we are to think and move “outside of our current box”, we need a collective and inclusive approach that empowers a diversity of perspectives. This includes collaborative learning and action across TIGs, evaluation associations globally (VOPES), and other disciplines, with particular attention to the meaningful engagement of those historically marginalized because of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other status. To move in this direction, earlier this year I took the initiative to network over 30 diverse AEA leaders on the urgency of climate change.

Our transformational potential depends on our ability to maintain our moral compass amidst these challenging times. The groundwork already exists in the AEA guiding principles, values, bylaws, statements on cultural competence, systemic racism and more. Collectively, this ethical scaffolding reflects a commitment to the common good, equity, diversity, integrity, honesty, and transparency that has guided my professional career, and that I will champion if elected to the Board.

AEA is my evaluation home. My 19 years as a member provides valuable historical perspective. I currently serve as a member of the AEA’s International Working Group and am its representative with the EVALSDGs network. I co-founded and chaired the Disaster and Emergency Management Evaluation TIG and am an active member in the International and Cross-Cultural Evaluation, Environmental Program Evaluation, and Organizational Learning & Evaluation Capacity Building TIGs. I have participated and presented at almost every annual conference during my membership, (regardless of my predominantly overseas locations), organized and chaired 3 Presidential Strand sessions, and have volunteered in various capacities: TIG abstract reviews, International Travel Award reviews, International Buddy Program, and the Silent Auction. In addition to delivering (and taking) professional development workshops at the conferences, I have also delivered AEA eStudy and Coffee Break Webinars and have reviewed for the AJE.

My evaluation career began evaluating public education and environmental programs in Southern CA. Subsequently, I worked with the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement for over a decade, first supporting monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for the tsunamic recovery efforts in Southeast Asia, and then, based in Geneva, supporting global strategic planning and M&E operations. With increasing concerns about the disproportionate impact of climate change on the most vulnerable, I most recently worked with the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation as its Director of Evidence, Measurement and Evaluation for its climate change portfolio.
My international evaluation work has instilled a deep appreciation of other cultures and worldviews, and practical experience managing participatory and multi-stakeholder consultation and consensus building. I was a founding member of EvalPartners in 2012, serving on its VOPE Toolkit Taskforce and the Equity and Gender Taskforce, and currently on its EVALSDGs network. I have served on advisory and technical working groups for a variety of additional initiatives, including the ALNAP Steering Committee and the Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice. I have also presented papers and delivered workshops at other VOPES in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Europe, which has underscored the potential of collaborative learning and leadership in the evaluation community through evaluation professional associations.

My graduate studies in Geography at UCLA (mid-90s) focused on cultural and political ecology, examining the political economy of human adaptations to social and physical environments. I was particularly influence by the work of authors such as Paulo Freire and Rigoberta Menchú, and the plight of indigenous peoples who protect the planet but are literally being shot down, bullied and disproportionately impacted by its destruction.

In addition to evaluation, I have worked as a university instructor in Los Angeles, China, and Taiwan; a counsellor for the visually impaired; a junior high teacher for disadvantaged inner city youth (Tenderloin, San Francisco); an outdoor instructor with Outward Bound and NOLS; and a tai chi instructor. My wife is Colombian with a PhD and career in international migration and labor rights, and our household centers around our 4-year old daughter.
Nomination Identification and Contact Information

Candidate Name: Leanne Kallemeyn
Board Position Candidacy: Member-at-Large
Title: Associate Professor
Affiliation: Research Methodology, School of Education, Loyola University Chicago
Discipline: Educational Psychology
Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: Academic (and a Practitioner)
Geographic Representation: United States, Midwest
Area(s) of Work Application: early childhood interventions, K-12 teacher professional development, higher education
AEA Member Since: 2003
AEA Positions Held: Member, AEA Guiding Principles Working Group, 2019—present; Co-chair, Qualitative Methods Topical Interest Group, 2016—2018; Member, Professional Development Committee, 2015

Statement

AEA is my professional community and home. I want to ensure that AEA continues to support us to tackle the complex problems we face collaboratively. In the current COVID-19 pandemic, I am reminded of the importance of evaluation professionals to address complex problems. I am witnessing how readily available indicators—number of cases, number of people tested, number of deaths—and studies that characterize the outbreaks and effectiveness of potential interventions—are informing (and not informing) real-time decisions. I have also witnessed the limitations and misuse of these indicators. I have seen ethical concerns about the balance between respecting individual autonomy and promoting the common good. Most concerning, I am seeing consistent patterns of racial inequities in the number of people infected and dying during the outbreak. These current events are a reminder of the importance and centrality of evaluation practices, in addition to the ethical challenges and responsibilities for professionals.

I support the profession of evaluation through a variety of avenues that inform the perspectives I will bring to the AEA Board. I conduct small-scale, multi-year evaluation projects as an academic evaluator and have authored over 20 evaluation reports. I study how practitioners, particularly teacher and school administrators, use (and do not use) data and evidence in their daily routines. I teach graduate level courses in evaluation practice and theory, qualitative and mixed methods. I developed and administer a 15-credit hour Certificate in Organizational Evaluation with colleagues at Loyola University Chicago. Since 2017, I have served as a Board Member for Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation (PIE.org), a non-profit organization that supports other non-profits in the Chicago-area through evaluation capacity building and coaching. This past year I have served on the planning committee for an evaluation career pathways project, which is a group of Chicago-area evaluators in foundations, community-based organizations, and universities, that have created a pathways project to recruit undergraduate students of color from Chicago neighborhoods to work in Chicago neighborhoods. I also facilitate the CASE Collaborative, which is a group of evaluators across the US and other countries that teach...
evaluation and want to promote the use of cases in training, professional development, and university courses. This work grew out of involvement with the International Society for Evaluation Education (ISEE). At Loyola University Chicago, I have served in a faculty leadership role as Program Chair and member of the School of Education Leadership Council, in addition to serving on a variety of University committees (e.g., Institutional Review Board, University Appeals Committee, Academic Council, Faculty Evaluation, Dean Search Committees, Professional Development and Mentoring, Curriculum).

When I was a graduate student, AEA was critical for my professional development and continues to be integral for me to sustain my practice and mentor future evaluators. I will continue to foster this professional community for others. In addition to direct serve to AEA (see above), I have actively participated in several ways. I have mentored two AEA Graduate Education Diversity Internship (GEDI) recipients; hosted AEA members attending the conference from other countries; authored AEA 365 Blogs; and published, presented, and/or reviewed several articles for American Journal of Evaluation, Evaluation and Program Planning and conference proposals for various topical interest groups (TIGs) (PreK-12, qualitative methods, research on evaluation). In particular, I aim to serve as an ally for underrepresented colleagues, and desire for AEA to be an organization that is home to diverse professionals and perspectives. To be this home, I recognize the need for consistent efforts to challenge systematic injustices that create barriers for people to be a part of the AEA community and to practice evaluation in a manner that explicitly addresses systematic inequities in communities and society. AEA has been, and will continue to be, a critical influence on the professionalization of evaluation.

I have a MEd and PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a BA in Psychology from Calvin College.
I am honored to be on the ballot for an AEA Board Member-at-Large position. I am an Associate Professor of Educational Research, Measurement and Evaluation at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. I have a Ph.D. in Education from UCLA’s Social Research Methodology program. One of my intellectual interests is to address the methodological and conceptual issues inherent in conducting evaluations in diverse contexts. My recent work focuses on using empowerment evaluation as a conceptual framework for creating a synergy among evaluation research, community engagement, and service learning.

I have been a member of AEA for over 13 years and have served AEA in various capacities. Giving back to AEA through these service activities has been rewarding since I feel as a member I could do a small part to help advance our association’s programmatic activities and missions. These include advancing AEA’s equity and diversity mission by broadening the participation of international evaluators in terms of gender, geography, and the types of international program development and evaluation they engaged in through my work with the International and Cross Cultural Evaluation (ICCE) TIG. In addition, I have been working collaboratively with the Research on Evaluation (RoE) TIG leaders to grow the membership, more actively engage members, and contribute to the development of the RoE knowledge base.

These service activities also helped to shape my beliefs around what being a servant leader and steward of an organization means. AEA relies on the good will of its volunteers. To me, commitment to service is at the heart of effective and meaningful leadership of an organization. Furthermore, the governance
structure of AEA requires that one be able to work effectively with team members to get things done. My management style emphasizes collaboration and reciprocal accountability. In my role as a board member (if elected), that means being a thought partner, not being afraid of having critical conversations, and being open to holding each other accountable.

If elected, I hope to contribute to and advance the priority of the Board on (1) membership engagement, (2) diversity and leadership development, and (3) ethical evaluation practice by working collaboratively with other AEA leaders. These focus areas are a continuation of various roles I am currently engaged in with other AEA association leaders and members.

I view the three priority areas as intertwined with each other. Evaluation is a diverse field. Our conceptions of what roles evaluators ought to play reflect a mixture of factors, ranging from our own disciplinary training, the context in which we conduct most of our evaluation work (e.g., purposes and roles of evaluation), the nature and types of programs and/or policies we typically are asked to evaluate, and what we believe in terms of who ought to be the primary audience of the evaluation findings or whose interests evaluation should serve (e.g., decision makers, funders, policy makers vs. program managers, and program participants).

Our evaluation approaches also reflect our value systems concerning evaluator roles, explicitly or implicitly (e.g., evaluators as educators, as facilitators, as objective technicians or methodologists, as impartial external judges, or as advocates for the least powerful stakeholders such as program participants).

What I’d like to accomplish, if elected, is to showcase this diversity by being an advocate for diverse member engagement in association activities (e.g., various working groups), promoting a diverse leadership pipeline, and championing ethical evaluation practice through the AEA Guiding Principles. As I think about how to accomplish these priorities, I will be guided by the wisdom offered by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Thank you for your vote!
Candidate Name: Maurice C. Samuels, Ph.D.
Board Position Candidacy: Board Member-at-Large
Title: Senior Evaluation Officer
Affiliation: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Discipline: Evaluation and Research Methods
Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: Culturally Responsive Evaluation; Developmental Evaluation; Mixed Methods; Nonprofit and Foundations
Geographic Representation: Midwest-Chicago
Area(s) of Work Application: Philanthropy
AEA Member Since: 2003


I am extremely honored to be a candidate for the AEA Board. I have been a member of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) for 17 years. Over this 17-year period, AEA has been instrumental to my development as an evaluation professional. It has been essential in helping me build social capital in the field through networking, leadership opportunities, and mentoring. My desire to be a Board Member-at-Large is the direct result of the impact that AEA has had on my academic and professional careers.

I was introduced to AEA as a second-year graduate student and as a member of the initial Graduate Education Diversity Intern (GEDI) program in 2003. My GEDI experience introduced me to individuals and a community of practice that embedded evaluation thinking in the needs of people and communities of color. The internship gave me the opportunity to consider the role of evaluation in social change, social justice, and issues of access, opportunity, and power—all through the lens of culture and context. It was essential in helping me to shape, inform, and articulate my ideological commitment and practice as an evaluator. Moreover, I identify with evaluation approaches that illuminate the historical and structural disadvantages of people of color and are used to bring about social changes through equitable distribution of power and cultural assets, such as culturally responsive evaluation. I am also committed to approaches that value equity and strongly believe in the use of mixed methods to inform inquiry.

I have had the opportunity to make several contributions to the organization. Early in my career I was Co-Chair of the Multiethnic Issues in Evaluation (MIE) Topical Interest Group (TIG) Mentoring Program, where I spearheaded a mentorship program that connected new evaluators to the field with evaluators that practiced culturally responsive evaluation. I later went on to serve as a Co-Chair for the MIE TIG for three years. Most recently, I have served on various committees and boards including Conference Planning Committee and on the Editorial Boards for the American Journal of Evaluation and New Directions for Evaluation. Additionally, I continue to be connected to the GEDI program and have been a site supervisor for three interns, the most recent being 2019-2020.

A significant challenge facing AEA is how to navigate the organization given the current complexities and circumstances we face with the harsh racial and ethnic inequities that have been further exacerbated with COVID-19 and made more apparent with the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, the police shooting of Jacob Blake, and the police killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.
If elected, my vision is to work with the Board to leverage AEA’s financial, human, and reputational resources to ensure the organization makes a significant contribution in addressing persistent systemic factors that have created inequitable conditions and opportunities for Black, Latino/a/X and Indigenous people. The direction the Board takes should be the result of an inclusive process that is informed by diverse perspectives of AEA membership. In addition, my vision includes AEA continuing its journey to becoming a more transparent organization and having honest conversations in which we examine and acknowledge internal operations, policies, and practices that hinder the organization from reaching its end goals.

My strongest attributes as a leader are strategic thinking and relationship building. As a strategic thinker I seek to identify alternate ways to solve problems, which calls for me to have a strong, positive and solutions-oriented mindset. Also, I believe that strong relationships are created by building trust, demonstrating respect, listening to and understanding different perspectives, and providing useful feedback. Both skills have served me well in my career and I believe they will be essential in helping the Board navigate challenging times.

I have the utmost respect for AEA members and an unwavering commitment to AEA’s success. My perspective, values and experience would be a strong asset to AEA’s Board. I am truly excited about the possibility of serving on the Board to shape the organization’s future and it would be an honor to be elected.
I am honored to be selected as a candidate for the AEA Board of Directors. AEA and so many AEA members individually have contributed to my growth as an evaluation consulting business owner and an evaluator. I worked on my first evaluation project as an undergraduate research intern in 1985 and have been evaluating ever since. I became aware of and joined AEA in 2007, and since then I’ve watched the organization grow and evolve very rapidly. The growth has resulted in many positive developments, but not without some growing pains. As a result, while the organization has come a long way, AEA still have some challenges to overcome. For example, recent discussions of diversity and inclusion issues resulted in a need to temporarily suspend EvalTalk, and COVID-19 required a shift to a virtual conference this year. I have experience in leadership positions at AEA and in other professional associations and I would like to serve on the AEA Board of Directors with the goal of contributing to facilitate AEA’s growth and evolution.

As an example of how AEA and its members have contributed to my professional growth, my involvement with the Independent Consulting TIG has been invaluable. When I started my own consulting business, TIG members shared their experience, support, expertise, and encouragement. Through AEA’s educational offerings, I have been able to attend eStudies and Summer Institutes to continue to expand and update my skills. Even after 35 years I feel like there is still so much to learn!

I have also made contributions to the evaluation profession which include:

- collaborating with colleagues to co-edit an issue of New Directions for Evaluation on Evaluating Coalitions and Collaboratives (2020)
- co-authoring an article in the issue of New Directions for Evaluation on Independent Evaluation Consulting (2019)
- presenting annually at the AEA annual conference every year since 2009
- contributing AEA 365 blogs
– teaching at the AEA Summer Institute for four years
– presenting an AEA eStudy
– co-editing one AJE Forum (2015; The Community Psychology-Evaluation Nexus)
– participating in the advocacy initiative at the 2017 AEA conference by visiting my legislators to share information about evaluation.

AEA is also where I’ve had opportunities to apply my own leadership experience and give back. As founder and co-chair of the Community Psychology TIG I was instrumental in the founding of the leadership council, which hosts the Walk the Talk Events at the AEA conference each year. During these events members have an opportunity to visit an organization or a community, learn about their evaluation challenges, and provide them feedback and consultation. As co-chair of the Nonprofits and Foundations TIG I collaborated with my co-chair to initiate a leadership council to meaningfully engage more members and prepare them to take on leadership roles in the TIG. My leadership experience extends to other professional associations, such as the Society for Community Research and Action, where I also served on Boards in elected (member-at-large and President) and ex-officio positions, which has broadened my leadership experience and perspective.

I have demonstrated my leadership ability through my service to professional associations and community organizations and in my professional life. I am knowledgeable about the roles and responsibilities of board members as I have worked with multiple boards of directors of nonprofit organizations to facilitate board development and strategic planning. My success as an independent consultant for the past 11 years necessitates that I am detail oriented and fiscally responsible. My evaluation work is primarily focused on programs and initiatives related to health equity and cultural humility and I am both committed to and knowledgeable about diversity, inclusion, equity, and racism. I would like to bring all my experience, knowledge, and passion for evaluation to serve on the AEA Board. In this role I would commit my energy and time to work with the Board members, TIGs, and general membership to continue to work toward a more inclusive and welcoming organization for everyone, to promote evaluation as a field, and to continue to support AEA as it continues to grow and evolve as an organization.
I am extremely honored to be nominated for Board Member-at-Large. I am Department Chair and Professor of Research and Evaluation at East Carolina University. My 15 years of leadership experience in AEA has given me invaluable insight into how evaluation in the US and the global landscape has changed over time. Today, it is imperative to consider expanding collaboration and partnerships not only within the US, but also outside of US borders.

If given the opportunity to serve, I will focus on advocating for an inclusive, diverse, and international community of evaluation research and practice. AEA can continue to grow by expanding and strengthening its role in the world. To do so, we need international members’ talents, experiences, and perspectives at AEA. We need to do a better job of inviting international evaluators and developing their practice and networks – especially evaluators from developing countries. We need to build connections and work more closely with international evaluators and evaluation clients to address complex problems globally. I am dedicated to promoting evaluation globally as a profession with principled practice and use. I will contribute to the AEA Board by introducing, welcoming, connecting with international members, and diversify AEA’s membership.

I have had the fortune to acquire and develop a myriad of special qualifications that will make me an exceptional member of the AEA Board. These qualifications span across four important categories, all of which are highly desirable qualities in a strong board member.
**Extensive Knowledge and Skills in Evaluation.** I received a PhD in Research and Evaluation Methodology from the University of Florida, and postdoctoral advanced training in largescale data analysis from Stanford University. I have presented and published extensively, and led the evaluation of many programs and projects, funded by agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. My extensive evaluation knowledge and skills afford me a solid understanding of issues in evaluation and how to effectively solve them.

**Wide National Recognition and Impact.** I am fortunate to be a recipient of many national and international prestigious awards, such as (1) *Frontiers in Education* Benjamin J. Dasher Best Paper Award, (2) *the American Society for Engineering Education* Best Paper Award, (3) *the Edward C. Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teacher Education* from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), (4) *the Outstanding Professor and Researcher* recognition from the U.S. government, and (5) *the Best Writing on Mathematics* in 2015 by Princeton University. My book, *The CIPP Evaluation Model*, coauthored with Daniel Stufflebeam, is a highly recognized authoritative book on the CIPP Model.

**Valuable AEA and Other National Leadership Experience.** Within AEA, I serve as Chair of the Assessment in Higher Education TIG, Chair of the Quantitative Methods TIG, and Editorial Advisory Board member of *American Journal of Evaluation*. I have conducted multiple PD workshops and chaired numerous conference sessions. Outside AEA, I have served as Chair of the American Educational Research Association Dissertation Award Committee, Executive Council Member of the AERA Measurement and Research Methodology Division, President of American Evaluation Center, and President of American Family Education Institute.

**Broad International Impact and Diverse Perspective.** Internationally, I am a well-recognized education leader, evaluator, and bestselling author. I serve as an expert advisor to the Chinese Society of Education and frequently speak on national news channels about evaluation and education. I serve as the anchor host for American Education Channel and Family Education Channel on Weibo, sharing my education expertise daily with millions of parents and teachers. I created the American Family Education Institute, and provide parents with professional guidance on child upbringing. As a Department Chairperson, I engage our faculty and students globally.

**Vision for Contribution to AEA’s Global Growth.** Being a female Asian American leader, evaluator, and professor with extensive international experience, my unique perspective can contribute greatly to the AEA Board. I will add exceptional skills, distinctive strengths, unique perspective, and valuable diversity representation to the profile of the AEA Board. I envision to help firmly establish AEA as a world leader in the evaluation field, and significantly increase its global presence and impact.

I will contribute to AEA’s global growth by (1) connecting with international evaluation communities, (2) recruiting international members, (3) refining international strategic actions, (4) engaging and serving our diverse membership, (5) improving membership diversity and inclusion, (6) increasing AEA’s global impact; and (7) advocating high ethical standards globally, and promoting a multicultural and international understanding of evaluation practice, while working collaboratively with other AEA leaders.