

**Name** Christine Self  
**Institution** Texas Tech University  
**Job Title** Director

**Please write a statement describing why you will be a good member of the AHEPPP Board of Directors. Please include particular skills that will suit this role and the ways in which the candidate's leadership will contribute to AHEPPP's mission, programs and initiatives. Limit to 500 words.**

I am applying to serve on the Board of Directors of AHEPPP at a difficult time in higher education. Enrollment declines, either currently happening or expected, the hurdles of how higher education institutions can respond to factors out of their control such as the acts of legislative bodies, and even fundamental shifts in how the general public views the value of a college degree all loom large. I see this as an incredibly challenging time for family engagement professionals. However, this is also a time ripe for this profession to prove its worth and grow. We have the opportunity to raise family engagement to a more prominent place in higher education institutions that are looking to partner with families to recruit and retain students at such a crucial time. After all, we know that parents and family members are integral to students' decisions to enroll in college, and they're vital parts of our students' support systems in college.

Times of change can be times to be bold. I believe AHEPPP can grow along with the field of family engagement by enhancing our partnerships outside the field and extending family engagement across the higher education profession. On my own campus, our department is working to increase collaboration with academic colleges to help provide more individualized support, information, and engagement activities for the families of our students. We've already been partnering with admissions and orientation professionals. I believe AHEPPP can leverage these kinds of inter-functional partnerships and invite these professionals into our fold to increase our membership and conference attendance.

I have been involved in AHEPPP since 2103 and I find membership an indispensable part of my professional development and my community – there is no group I am a part of professionally that feels more like home and that understands what I am doing in my work. I would love the opportunity to help give back to the organization that's given me so much. I would like to build on my experience and skills as a Conference Committee member, seeing the nuts and bolts of how our conference operates to support growth in our conference. I would also be able to use the experience I've gained learning about the challenges and opportunities of other higher education associations through my service on the CAS Council to help AHEPPP thrive.

The mission and values of AHEPPP strongly resonate with me and are reflected in the work I have done and continue to do in advocating for families and family engagement. I have strong skills in collaborating with others, working on boards made of up diverse individuals, writing, research and assessment, and innovating while managing change. I believe I could contribute to helping AHEPPP reach its goals while living up to its mission and values.