



Name: Debra Ward-Mitchell

Employment Position: Assistant Director, District 205 Infant Care Center

Community and State of Residence: Thornton Township, Homewood, Illinois

Current And Previous Employment: Thornton High School, District 205

Association Experience:

Local: President (9 years); Lead Negotiator; Building Representative; Grievance Chair

State: Region 27 Vice-Chair; IEA Executive Committee; Presidents' Support Team; IEA Board of Directors; ESP Council Vice-Chair; Bargaining Team

National: 2022 NEA ESP of the Year; Emerging Leader Graduate

What do you consider the overriding issues in education?

Attacks on public education and educators; Lack of support for marginalized students; Education Support Professionals not respected as educators; Equitable living wages for all; Limited access to healthcare; Better learning conditions for students and working conditions for educators; Inadequate school funding; Book Bans.