



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.