

## **SERC Board of Directors**

**Dr. Agnes Quiñones**  
Chairperson  
CT State Department of Ed

**Erin D. Benham**  
CT State Board of Ed

**Stephen Higgins**  
South Windsor Public Schools

**Dr. Diane Clare-Kearney**  
Manchester Public Schools

**Sinthia Sone-Moyano**  
CT State Department of Ed

**Jeffrey Leake**  
CT Education Association  
(CEA) - Retired

**Richard J. Porth, Jr.**  
Connecticut Conference of  
Municipalities

**Thomas R. Swan**  
CT Citizen Action Group  
(CCAG)

**To:** Appointing Authority

**From:** SERC Board of Directors

**Subject:** Appointment to SERC Board of Directors

**Date:** June 19, 2024

**CC:** Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly  
Jessica Tyburski, Director, Legislative Affairs  
Dr. Ingrid M. Canady, Executive Director, SERC

The membership of the SERC Board of Directors is writing to ask for your support in completing the appointments to the State Education Resource Center Board of Directors. According to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 10-357a(b)(1), **APPOINTING AUTHORITY**, has one appointment to SERC's Board of Directors. That appointment is currently vacant.

Currently, there are several vacancies on our Board; please support the SERC Board by making your appointment and moving the Board closer to compliance with legislation. We appreciate your support of the original bill that established SERC as a quasi-public entity. Below, you will find information that may be useful as you consider your appointment decision.

The composition of SERC's board has a direct impact on its ability to achieve its strategic goals and fulfill its responsibilities. Given the significance of any decision regarding board appointment, we respectfully offer a summary of key points for your consideration. These points provide context regarding SERC's immediate and long-term needs.

To assist with the functioning of SERC as a quasi-public agency, board members contribute in the following ways:

- **Demonstrate a passion for SERC's vision and mission** — Since 1969, SERC has provided high-quality professional development and informational resources to promote the educational achievement of all learners (birth to 21), with a special focus on dismantling systemic barriers to quality education. Board members who believe deeply in SERC's vision and mission will likely be the most engaged and invested in their roles.
- **Represent the diversity of Connecticut** — SERC's commitment to racial, cultural, and geographic diversity is evidenced by the composition of its staff and leadership. Similar diversity in board members strengthens the existing spectrum of thought and perspectives that have made SERC successful.
- **Contribute a focus on community and families** — SERC strives to keep families involved in the work of strengthening our state's education systems. The Board's understanding and guidance in creating and maintaining goals that include direct connections to students and families is essential.
- **Provide expertise in financial management** — As SERC continues to strengthen its fiscal operations, it will benefit from board members who have previously guided similar entities in a legal and financial aspect.
- **Develop and implement a strategy to sustainably fund SERC** — A top priority for SERC remains to develop a comprehensive, multi-year plan to identify and pursue additional long-term funding sources and partnerships. Board members can facilitate and nurture connections with likely partners in philanthropy, higher education, and the corporate sector.