

Angelicque Tucker Blackmon, PhD

Candidate Name: Angelicque Tucker Blackmon, PhD

Board Position Candidacy: President

Title: CEO and Principal Evaluator

Affiliation: Innovative Learning Center, LLC Division of Research and Evaluation

Discipline: Analytical Chemistry, Science Education, STEM Education, Research and Evaluation

Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: STEM Education Research and Evaluation

Geographic Representation: Southwest and Southeastern United States (located in Atlanta, GA & Austin, TX)

Area(s) of Work Application: STEM pathways and workforce development

AEA Member Since: 2021

AEA Positions Held: STEM TIG Program Chair, Board Member at Large, Presidential Conference Strand, Lead Policies and Procedures Advisory Group, co-Lead Executive Director Performance Review

I am honored to be a candidate for President of the American Evaluation Association and to continue serving a profession that has shaped my career and deepened my understanding of how evidence can expand opportunity and strengthen communities.

My professional journey has taken me across analytical chemistry, science education, cultural anthropology, learning sciences, and evaluation. I have served as a faculty member, researcher, entrepreneur, principal investigator, National Science Foundation Program Director, funder, grant reviewer, and Founder and Principal Evaluator of the Innovative Learning Center. Across more than thirty evaluation initiatives and over \$26 million in funded work, I have learned that evaluation is most powerful when rigor and humanity are treated as partners rather than opposites.

My context of practice spans education, STEM, philanthropy, and leadership development. I am particularly passionate about culturally responsive and culturally specific assessment, strengths-based evaluation, systems thinking, and designing learning environments that help institutions recognize and cultivate human potential. I believe evaluation should not simply document what happened, but help people, organizations, and communities better understand what is possible.

Throughout my service to AEA, I have sought to strengthen both the intellectual and organizational vitality of our association. As a Board Member-at-Large, I contributed to governance initiatives that improved alignment between board practice and policy. I served on the inaugural Policy and Procedures Advisory Group and now serve as Advisory Group Lead, helping strengthen the association's governance infrastructure. I have also contributed to initiatives that bridge evaluation with creativity, leadership, and values-conscious practice, including the 2025 Presidential Closing Plenary and the joint AEA-CREA Leadership Roundtable, which extended AEA's influence internationally through collaboration with the Australian Evaluation Society.

These experiences have reinforced my understanding that the President serves primarily as a governance leader. Effective governance requires systems thinking, strategic foresight, relationship-building, and the ability to cultivate trust across methodological traditions, sectors, career stages, and perspectives. I bring a collaborative leadership style grounded in listening, curiosity, and a commitment to helping people see how their contributions matter to our collective work.

At this particular moment, I believe AEA has an opportunity to make one of its most important contributions yet. Our profession has long been recognized for advancing methodological rigor, credible evidence, and accountability. Those contributions remain essential. Yet I believe AEA is uniquely

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positioned to connect those strengths with a larger purpose: ensuring that evidence serves people and communities and that evaluation becomes a catalyst for human flourishing.

If elected, I hope to help position AEA as the professional home for this next chapter. I want to strengthen the association's resilience, support emerging leaders, deepen partnerships across sectors, and expand how we communicate the value of evaluation to audiences beyond our traditional boundaries. I hope to build on the extraordinary work of previous leaders while helping members more clearly see how they belong within and contribute to the life of the association.

I also hope to continue advancing conversations about responsiveness, dignity, and the responsibilities we assume when communities entrust us with their stories. I believe evaluation should help people see themselves more fully, not reduce them to deficits or scores. What we measure shapes what we value, and what we value shapes who we believe is capable.

Above all, I hope to bring steady, collaborative, and future-oriented leadership to AEA. I believe our profession's greatest strength resides not in any single methodology, funding mechanism, or political moment, but in people—people committed to truth, learning, and one another.

I would be honored to serve as President and to work alongside members in continuing to build an association that not only advances the science and practice of evaluation, but also expands what individuals, institutions, and communities believe is possible.