

Southeast Arkansas AECA Affiliation Meeting

September 21, 2026 Minutes

The September affiliate meeting of 2026 was held on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Arkansas at Monticello – College of Technology McGehee campus.

There were 21 individuals present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Kim Burgess.

Meeting Business:

- Kim Burgess welcomed all attendees. A copy of the June meeting minutes was provided to attendees upon arrival. After the welcome, a review of the minutes was conducted. Liz Coakley moved the motion to approve the minutes, with Ms. Charlotte Mosby seconding the motion.
- After the approval of the minutes, President Elaine Hargraves discussed the upcoming AECA Conference and directed attendees to the website to register.
- The next item of business discussed was a follow-up from the June meeting on advocacy. Mrs. Shari Godfrey and Mrs. Hargraves discussed with the attendees the opportunity for community leaders, legislators, etc. to visit early childhood programs to learn more about the important work we do. A consensus among the attendees could not be reached, so it was decided to email a poll for anonymous responses to all individuals on the affiliate mailing list for feedback. Kim Burgess will create and distribute the poll.
- Kim Burgess then introduced the guest speaker, Myisha Washington, and turned the meeting over to her. Ms. Washington combined personal experiences with the processes for identifying and serving those with special needs, captivating the audience throughout the presentation. Ms. Washington shared how children are identified for testing, what tests may be administered, and the qualifications for an individual to receive services. Ms. Washington also shared about parents' rights and how to conduct these conversations with parents as an early childhood educator.

Before adjourning the meeting, multiple drawings were then held for door prizes, including children's books and donated UAM-branded items. Mrs. Hargraves informed the attendees that the next meeting would be after the first of the year in January or February. Confirmation of the date, time, and details will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Hargraves and Mrs. Burgess thanked the members for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.