

Candidate Statement: Kimberly Garmany

Cooperatives have been at the center of my world for the past seventeen years. In 2001, I began a relationship with College Houses in desperate need of affordable housing as an incoming freshman at the University of Texas. During my four-year membership at the 21st St. Co-op, I developed my leadership abilities by organizing social events, serving as a house meeting chairperson and helping new members get settled as the Membership Coordinator. The skills and experiences that came from my time as a student cooperater have shaped the person I am today.

In my professional life, I've held positions in organizations that help people overcome barriers to a prosperous life. I've provided quality, affordable childcare to those in need, been a mentor to at-risk youth and currently work to help students gain necessary life skills by owning and operating their cooperative homes. I believe my work experience—as well as my board service for NASCO and my time as the Board President for the Austin Cooperative Business Association—will bring a unique perspective to NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors.

The potential impact that NCBA CLUSA has as the national association for all U.S. cooperatives is something that I have admired since participating in NASCO's Emerging Leaders Program many years ago. As I near the end of my three-year term on the board, the visioning work that the board has engaged in has made that potential impact come to life for me. I am excited to be considered for another term to continue the work around co-ops creating an inclusive economy and NCBA CLUSA being a leader in that arena. I am excited about continuing to develop myself as a national cooperative leader, and even more excited about engaging youth with NCBA CLUSA's initiatives.