

**Candidate Statement: Cornelius Blanding**

This statement is a sincere attempt to express my continued interest in and commitment to serving on NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors. I have served two terms, learned a lot and hope that I have brought a different, yet valued perspective of cooperatives and cooperative development to the work and vision of NCBA CLUSA as it relates to serving its members and representing cooperatives from various sectors, regions and backgrounds. I wish to be re-elected to another term and look forward to continuing to serve and represent limited resource cooperatives, communities of color in the Deep South as well as the cooperative movement as a whole.

I still believe in the power of cooperation among cooperatives and truly believe that cooperatives are only as strong as their memberships and networks. My passion is to keep limited resource cooperatives in the U.S. South connected to the larger cooperative movement and vice-versa.