

Candidate Statement: Carla Decker

I was privileged to join the NCBA CLUSA Board three years ago. I first sought to serve based on the conviction that the cooperative sector plays a key role in empowering and sustaining vulnerable communities and creating wealth-building opportunities for people from all walks of life. I thought that NCBA CLUSA was central in strengthening, mobilizing and connecting our sector nationally and globally. After a first term of service, I now know this to be the case.

During my tenure on the board, I have served as chair of the International Committee, member of a strategic planning task force and representative to the Cooperative Development Foundation's board. More recently, I have also represented NCBA CLUSA to the board of the Co-operatives of the Americas, a region of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA).

My contributions to the board lie in 28 years of experience in the cooperative financial sector. For the past 15 years, I have served as President and CEO of DC Federal Credit Union—a low-income, minority-owned depository and community development financial institution. Our work in consumer finance and link to other sectors in the cooperative movement are local. But our collaborative enterprise model and our accomplishments in building financial security for our more than 10,000 member-owners reverberate nationally.

My experience and interest also lies in international development. I served on the board of an NGO that provided technical assistance, evaluation and assessments of public and private entities working with vulnerable communities worldwide. These engagements spanned from refugee resettlement, health care and agriculture to micro-enterprise development. More recently, I have facilitated leadership development programs in the Caribbean, graduating nearly 800 cooperative sector leaders and becoming engaged in a number of graduates' projects aimed at strengthening the cooperative sector to increase market share and participation.

I am energized and committed to continue to serve at a time when the NCBA CLUSA embarks on its second centennial by formulating a strategy for the next 100 years, and executes a mission to create economic security for all through cooperatives.