**Candidate Statement - Michelle Schry**

“What will you bring to the NCBA board?”

I bring a deep personal commitment to the work of cooperatives and a dogged determination to bring greater appreciation and understanding of how cooperatives can change circumstances and build an inclusive economy when people leverage their collective resources both domestically and internationally.  I can also bring a link to some of the most active cooperative members in the U.S. – food co-op members.  Food co-ops represent 1.3 million member-owners, and whenever NCBA has put out a call for assistance, food co-ops and their members have answered – writing letters, calling legislators and donating money.

I’ve had the great honor of serving on the NCBA board for several years. NCBA is a crucial connection between co-op sectors, co-ops old and new, and cooperators old and new.  No other organization has the potential to make more impact than one that brings cooperators together to work in their common interests.  I can bring pragmatism, vision, organizational development skills, and a serious commitment to social justice.  I believe that every organization must constantly evolve to meet the changing needs of those it serves.  I am committed and inspired to assist in shepherding NCBA through that evolution so that we can achieve our vision of a truly inclusive economy.