

# CARLA DECKER

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT

As a leader in the credit union sector and an advocate for cooperative principles, I am honored and excited to seek reelection to the board of NCBA CLUSA and to continue to collaborate with the board, the senior leadership team, and the cooperative community to advance the vision of building an inclusive economy.

My journey from immigrant to CEO of a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) credit union has instilled in me a deep appreciation for the transformative power of cooperatives in fostering economic opportunity and social equity. I have witnessed firsthand the impact of cooperative enterprises in under-served and under-represented communities, where they provide access to affordable financial services, create jobs and promote wealth-building opportunities.

Credit unions operate at the intersection of finance and community development, and my experience leading CDFI Credit Unions equips me with a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing all cooperative businesses. That experience has informed my board service in providing governance, strategic direction and oversight to NCBA CLUSA's financial and operational performance, and I'm grateful for the trust and confidence of fellow NCBA CLUSA board members during my service as Board Chair from 2021-2023.

Representing NCBA CLUSA on the executive committee of Cooperatives of the Americas has also provided me with invaluable insights into the global cooperative movement and strengthened my commitment to advancing the cooperative economy on a national and international scale.

If re-elected to the NCBA CLUSA board, I will continue to leverage my background and expertise to advance NCBA CLUSA's vision of an inclusive economy and its priorities, as follows:

- As an immigrant and a person of color, I will advocate for and support initiatives that ensure all individuals have equal access to cooperative opportunities and resources in the US and abroad.
- As a cooperative leader, I will work to facilitate greater collaboration and knowledge sharing across sectors; highlighting best practices and innovative solutions to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem and increase our collective impact.
- As a credit union development educator, I am passionate about nurturing the next generation of cooperative leaders. I will support initiatives like CDF's Cooperative Leaders & Scholars programs that provide training, mentorship and professional development opportunities, building a vibrant and diverse leadership pipeline.

- As a CDFI practitioner, I will advocate for cooperative-led initiatives to address pressing social and environmental challenges, such as affordable housing, renewable energy and food security.

In conclusion, I am deeply committed to continuing to advance the mission and body of work of NCBA CLUSA, and I am confident that together we can build a more just, equitable and sustainable world through our cooperative enterprises to create a more inclusive future for all!

Thank you, in advance, for supporting my candidacy.