

SYLANDI BROWN

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am pleased to express my interest in serving on NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors. Since joining the Board in 2022, I have been continually inspired by the work of NCBA CLUSA to build a better world and more inclusive economy for people and communities in the U.S. and across the globe.

I bring a knowledge and skill set to the NCBA CLUSA board that emerges from my cooperative experience and role as Communications Manager of the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC). In this position, I manage the strategic communication activities of OCDC's research and learning arm, the International Cooperative Research Group, and support the dissemination of knowledge products designed to increase the impact and uptake of cooperatives around the world.

Our research includes a seminal body of work with evidence across sectors and countries that cooperatives provide a measurable economic and social difference to their members as compared to non-members. Data like this is paramount to illustrate the effectiveness of cooperatives and to support organizations like NCBA CLUSA with valuable evidence to strengthen its advocacy efforts, engage stakeholders, influence policy and promote the cooperative business model as a driver of sustainable and locally led development.

It is clear that amidst various challenges facing the global community, cooperatives shine through as a pathway for broad-based economic opportunity, equity, resilience and social inclusion to solve the critical issues of our time. While we each have unique roles to play within the cooperative ecosystem, I hope to earn your support to contribute to the strategic direction of our association and fortify NCBA CLUSA's position as a vibrant and influential leader within the cooperative landscape.