

Kim Garmany's Candidate Statement:

Cooperatives have been at the center of my world for the past 14 years. In 2001, I began a relationship with College Houses as an incoming freshman at the University of Texas that was in desperate need of affordable housing. During my four-year membership at the 21st St. Co-op, I developed my leadership abilities by organizing social events, serving as a house-meeting chairperson and helping new members get settled as the Membership Coordinator. The skills and experiences that came from my time as a student co-oper have shaped the person I am today.

In my professional life, I've held positions in organizations that help people overcome barriers to a prosperous life. I've provided quality, affordable childcare to those in need, been a mentor to at-risk youth and currently work to help students gain necessary life skills through owning and operating their cooperative homes. I believe my work experience, as well as my board service for NASCO and my time as the board president for the Austin Cooperative Business Association, will bring a unique perspective to the NCBA CLUSA Board of Directors.

The potential for impact that NCBA CLUSA has as the national association for all U.S. cooperatives is something that I have admired since participating in NASCO's Emerging Leaders Program many years ago. There are so many possibilities for NCBA CLUSA to bolster the cooperative economy in the U.S., and I look forward to the possibility of playing a role in the long-term vision of the organization.