

Candidates for Board of Directors

Candidate bio information

Please take a moment to review the important information about our four candidates for the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union Board of Directors.



Frances Hayes

Communications Specialist – Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute
M.A. - UNL
B.J. News-Editorial - UNL

I am a life-long resident of Lincoln and a long-term employee of the University of Nebraska in various roles, beginning as a student employee checking students into the dorms in the wee hours of the night. Currently I serve as Communications Specialist at the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska advocating for food and water security around the world. I just completed my second term on the Board of Directors for the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union and have had the honor of serving during this difficult time while also furthering the mission of the credit union and caring for its employees and members.

With an understanding of the university system and knowledge gained from running a small business with my husband, I love bringing creativity, strategic thinking and my personal perspective to the credit union. I look forward to continuing another term on the board, acting as an advocate for members, building on the credit union's trustworthy reputation and maintaining its financial strength. Through strategic planning and thoughtful growth goals, the future of NUFCU is exciting and I am honored to be a part of it.



Jennifer Hellwege

UNL Bursar
B.S. Business Administration - UNL

I've been a member of the credit union since 2000 and see the value it brings to both the employees of the university and our students. I started my career at the university in March of 1996 shortly after graduating from UNL. My first position was in the internal audit department known as Operations Analysis at that time. I moved to the Student Accounts Office in 1998 as an Assistant Director, and then became the Assistant Bursar in 2007 and Bursar in 2019.

I would be honored to serve on the Board and support the credit union's work in providing financial services for our university community. I can see the credit union being a great partner to the university in expanding on educating both our students and staff on financial literacy and look forward to promoting all the credit union has to offer. My experience is well-suited for serving in this position, and I would enjoy being able to give back for all the credit union does for us.



Ben Lennander

Business Processes & Transformation
Director
B.S. Accounting - Iowa State University
Graduate Certificate Data Analytics - UNL

I moved to Lincoln in 2001 right after college to start a small business called Exceed Services. During the great recession of 2007-2008 I lost my business. I was fortunate to get a job at the university during the summer of 2008 as an accounting associate. Throughout my career at the university, I have applied an entrepreneurial mindset to the positions I have held. I have always sought to better serve our customers and increase the efficiencies of business processes through utilizing technology, data integration and data analytics. In August of 2019 after spending five years as a Business Manager, I moved into my current position as the Director of Business Processes & Transformation. I've been a member of the credit union since 2011. The credit union is a wonderful and personal banking experience. I see a huge opportunity to expand our customer base by marketing the experience to potential new customers.

With my background in business process improvement I can put my skills to work for the credit union. I would like to have the opportunity to help the credit union increase efficiencies, utilize data and leverage technology to better serve its customers while expanding its customer base.



Chris Tran

Director of Benefits, Director of Risk
Management
B.S. Family Science - UNL
Society for Human Resources
Management, SHRM-CP

I recently began my career at the University of Nebraska in March of 2020 and quickly became a member of the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union. As the Director of Risk Management and Benefits, I have the opportunity to interact with university employees to ensure our benefits meet their needs. The credit union plays a crucial role in supporting these needs and financial goals of our employees.

Born and raised in Lincoln, I would be honored to have a seat at NUFCU. My current position would provide insight to play a key role in developing and aligning current business strategy with people and culture strategy. I hope to utilize my (current and past) experiences to advance the mission and goals of NUFCU.

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Heath Tuttle

UNL Chief Information Officer
NU ITS Assistant Vice President for IT
B.S. Secondary Education – Chadron State
College
M.A. Organizational Communication – UNO
Ph.D. Educational Studies – UNL

I came to work at the University of Nebraska in 2003 and have been a member of the credit union since that time. I believe in the mission of the credit union and enjoy the great customer service and the full suite of financial services offered. I am excited about being a part of the great work that the NUFUCU Board does. I hope that I can bring my experience, talents, and enthusiasm to help the credit union continue to grow.

I was raised on a dairy farm outside of Springview, Nebraska and attended a one-room country school for grades K-8. After attending a small high school, I decided to go to college to become a high school teacher. After teaching in western Nebraska for a few years, I continued my education and started teaching at the college level. I “fell” into information technology work when my department chair asked me to teach an online class in 2001. I haven’t looked back since that day.

I am the Chief Information Officer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, responsible for all IT systems at UNL. I am also responsible for the ITS HR and Research IT support across the University of Nebraska system.