

Board of Directors Position Description

The Board supports the work of the Northwest Credit Union Foundation and provides mission-based leadership, strategic guidance, and governance oversight. Board direction through the Chair is provided to the NWCUF President. Day-to-day operations and tactical execution are the responsibility of the NWCUF President and are led by the NWCUF Executive Director. The Board-Management relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement in the Foundation's development and implementation of the impact work of the organization is expected. Specific Board Member responsibilities include:

Governance Oversight

- Review and evaluate outcomes and governance metrics created by NWCUF, and regularly measure its performance and effectiveness using those metrics;
- Approve NWCUF's Board policies, annual budget, audit reports, and strategic business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all legal and fiduciary responsibilities;
- Support and participate in Management's continual recruitment of qualified Board candidates; and
- Ensure NWCUF's commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities NWCUF serves.

Fund Development and Allocation

- Make a meaningful personal financial contribution to NWCUF;
- Make a commitment on behalf of their credit union or organization to make an annual contribution that demonstrates the Foundation is a philanthropic priority of the credit union or organization (for Directors representing credit unions, this can be accomplished through an annual Fairshare contribution);
- Help identify personal connections that can benefit the Foundation's fundraising and reputational standing, leveraging personal and professional networks to bring resources that advance the Foundation's mission; and
- Support Foundation Management in cultivating other individuals, foundations, government entities, and businesses as potential donors and aligned partners.

Strategy Guidance

- Together with the President and Executive Director, regularly affirm the NWCUF's vision, mission, and strategic priorities, objectives, and metrics of success for the Foundation;
- Consistently foster a leadership culture that regularly engages in effective strategic thinking, learning, and dialogue; and
- Serve as a sounding board and advisor to Management.

Individual Responsibilities

- Prepare for, attend, and conscientiously engage in all NWCUF Board meetings;
- Fully engage in and execute all relevant NWCUF Board responsibilities;
- Serve as an active advocate and ambassador and fully engage in identifying and securing the financial resources and partnerships to advance the mission;

- Serve on committees or task forces and take on special assignments as needed; and
- Disclose any obligations to other organizations that conflict with NWCUF and recuse themselves from voting on issues related to a conflict.

Qualifications

The model board member is an individual who is passionate about NWCUF's mission and who has a proven track record of significantly contributing to the success of a donor-supported organization. Their accomplishments will inspire the future work of the NWCUF through fundraising and program implementation and their leadership profile will attract other well-qualified, high-performing individuals to engage in the NWCUF's work or serve as potential future Board Members.

Qualifications of the ideal candidate include that they:

- Meet the Director Eligibility requirements in the Northwest Credit Union Foundation Bylaws (Article VII: Board Governance, Section 6.7);
- Possess extensive professional industry experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector;
- Think strategically, manage complexity, and act decisively;
- Commit to and understands NWCUF's beneficiaries, preferably based on experience;
- Possess savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals; and
- Exemplify personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of NWCUF's beneficiaries.
- Contribute to the diversity of NWCUF's Board through credit union geography, asset size, and membership as well as individual diversity factors that could include, but are not limited to, race or ethnicity, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, and thought leadership.

General competencies that must exist within the Board, but are not necessarily demonstrated by every Board Director include:

- Public communication skills
- Visioning
- Financial acumen
- Understanding of the credit union environment
- Understanding of, and relationships in, the philanthropic and nonprofit environment
- Understanding of nonprofit governance processes and principles

Service on NWCUF's Board of Directors is without remuneration.

NWCUF Board Members will eagerly fulfill these commitments to the NWCUF. Each Board Member will individually and collectively engage in on-going conversations and leverage productive feedback to continue to evolve as a high-performing governance Board.