

Candidacy Announcement: Kayla Mattson for Re-Election as NASCOE President

Dear NASCOE Members,

My name is Kayla Mattson, and I am honored to announce my candidacy for re-election as NASCOE President. Serving as your President has been one of the greatest privileges and I remain deeply committed to advocating for our membership, strengthening our organization, and ensuring NASCOE continues to move forward with purpose and unity.

For those who may not know me as well, I am a CED in a multi-county shared management operation overseeing six counties, consisting of four offices and two COCs in North Central Minnesota. In August, I will celebrate my 18-year anniversary with the agency and have been a NASCOE member since day one. I have proudly served NASCOE in various leadership roles, beginning as District PT Representative, Membership Chair, Vice President, and President in Minnesota. I then had the honor of serving as Midwest Area Alternate Executive and Executive before becoming NASCOE Vice President and now NASCOE President. Each role has strengthened my dedication to our members and reinforced the importance of strong, servant leadership within our organization.

Outside the office, I enjoy traveling with my husband, Kyle—especially to NASCOE conventions! When we are not busy with NASCOE activities, you can often find us camping in our Ice Castle fish house, fishing year-round, floating on the lake, or watching hockey and baseball. We are proud parents of two grown children: Bryce, who is getting married in August, and Bree, who is also planning a wedding in the coming year. The greatest joy in our lives, however, is being grandparents to the sweetest, energetic three-year-old grandson, Oliver.

Over the past year, we have worked hard to increase communication and engagement across our organization. During the furlough and periods of uncertainty, NASCOE worked tirelessly to ensure members continued receiving timely information and updates so employees could stay informed and better understand what was happening at both the national and local levels. Through regular communication, outreach, and coordination, we worked to keep members connected, answer questions, and provide reassurance during a very challenging time. I am proud of the work we accomplished together to support our membership and ensure employees had access to accurate and reliable information when they needed it most.

In addition to improving communication with our members, we also increased outreach and engagement with non-members through the NASCOE Scoop publication so they could better understand the value NASCOE brings to county office employees nationwide. While we have made significant progress, there is still important work ahead.

This year, I have also remained heavily focused on advocating for county office employees regarding the serious challenges surrounding budget reductions, staffing allocations, and agency resource utilization. I have worked closely with our legislative consultant and continue to have ongoing discussions with National Office leadership to ensure the concerns being raised by county offices across the country are heard and addressed. Protecting adequate staffing levels and ensuring county offices have the resources necessary to effectively serve producers remain among my highest priorities. I will continue to bring attention to these issues and advocate aggressively on behalf of our membership.

As we move forward, I also want to help restore and strengthen the qualities that have always made NASCOE successful—respect, tact, courtesy, devotion, dedication, and leadership. These values should guide how we work together as a team, support one another, and represent our membership across the

country. I believe we can continue to advocate strongly while also fostering professionalism, unity, and mutual respect within our NASCOE family.

If re-elected as President, I will continue focusing on the priorities that matter most to our members:

1. **Empowering County Office Staff** – Continuing to advocate for adequate staffing, resources, and training so employees can effectively serve producers and communities. I remain committed to supporting and preserving the County Committee system and its critical role in local program delivery.
2. **Strengthening Communication and Engagement** – Building on the communication improvements we made this year by continuing transparent, consistent outreach with members and increasing engagement with non-members to demonstrate the value and importance of NASCOE.
3. **Advocating for Responsible Staffing and Budget Priorities** – Continuing to work closely with our legislative consultant, Congressional contacts, and National Office leadership to address concerns surrounding budget cuts, staffing shortages, workload demands, and how agency resources are being allocated throughout the organization.
4. **Restoring Leadership Values and Team Unity** – Promoting respect, tact, courtesy, devotion, dedication, and leadership throughout our organization while fostering collaboration, professionalism, and accountability at every level.
5. **Growing Membership and Future Leaders** – Encouraging new voices to become involved, mentoring future leaders, and ensuring NASCOE remains strong and united for years to come.

I will continue to lead with integrity, transparency, and dedication while working side-by-side with the Executive Committee, our state associations, and each of you to advocate for the needs of county office employees nationwide.

I am incredibly grateful for the support of my family, local team, District Director, COC members, and the many NASCOE members who continue to encourage and support me. It would be an honor to continue serving as your NASCOE President, and I humbly ask for your support and your vote for re-election.

Respectfully,

Kayla Mattson