



## **NASCOE Vice President Candidacy Announcement**

Hi there NASCOE members, my name is Kayla Mattson, and I am asking for your support as I announce that I am running for a second term for NASCOE Vice President. For those of you that are not as familiar with my background, I previously served as the Midwest Area Executive and as President for my state association in Minnesota. My husband Kyle and I enjoy traveling together to convention but when we are not busy with NASCOE life, we can be found fishing (either in our boat in the summer or in the fish house in the winter), floating on the lake (summertime of course) and watching baseball. We have two grown children, and a 1-year-old grandson, Oliver. I am a CED in a multi-county shared management operation that oversees 6 counties, comprising of 4 offices and 3 COCs. I have been a member of NASCOE from day one, 15 ½ years ago when I was hired as a PT. I started by getting involved in my state association first as a member and then as

Membership Chairperson, Vice President and eventually President. I have been fortunate to attend NASCOE Leadership Training in Washington DC and participate in a Legislative fly-in with another member from Minnesota and two members from Texas where we met with members of Congress regarding dairy and commodity programs.

My first MWA Rally outside of Minnesota was in Indianapolis in the spring of 2016, and this is where I really was able to see how my state association worked with other states in our area and then how we all fit within the NASCOE family. My first national convention was that same year in Cedar Rapids, where I came down with shingles on DAY ONE!!! I made it to all of the meetings, social events and the banquet. I survived the 7-hour drive home and went to the ER upon dropping off my friend and travel partner. Obviously, my first convention sticks out in my mind for having shingles, but it also is where I feel my passion for NASCOE and my NASCOE family really started to grow. I have developed many lifelong friendships throughout my travels, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue to build new relationships along the way.

I have had the honor of learning from some wonderful and strong leaders of NASCOE over the years and hope that, if I am given the opportunity to continue to serve as your Vice President, I will further my learning and help keep NASCOE alive and energized to positively serve everyone across the nation. I am very passionate about our work at FSA in the County Office and ensuring that we have adequate staff, resources, training and support to carry out our meaningful work for the farmers and ranchers we serve. I fully support the County Committee system and have worked hard in Minnesota, the Midwest Area, and this past year for the entire nation to help educate members and stakeholders about this important role that our COC members hold in successful administration of program delivery in our offices. I am not afraid to speak up, ask questions, and dig in to help find solutions to the concerns of our members and all of our teammates that we work with. I have enjoyed my years serving on the Executive Committee and working alongside this great team of leaders. I feel like my journey has just begun with NASCOE and I would appreciate your support in this next chapter in my life as I continue to learn and grow as a leader in NASCOE.