

***Candidate Announcement for Northwest Area Alternative Executive
Joel Foster, Grant County – Milbank, SD***

Hello from Milbank, SD, my name is Joel Foster. I am the CED in Grant County, which is located in the northeast corner of South Dakota about 12 miles from Minnesota. This is my official nomination for the Northwest Area Alternative Executive.

I have served in several positions within SDASCOE with the most recent being the SDASCOE President, which I will no longer serve as of July 2019. There were a few years where I was not as involved with SDASCOE/NASCOE due to being a divorced father of a son who lived with me. Once my son graduated from high school, I once again became active with SDASCOE/NASCOE.

I grew up on a farm in northeast South Dakota that our family owns and operates. Upon graduating from South Dakota State University, my career began with FSA in January of 1991 as a COT. Due to the impending reorganization at the time there were not many CED vacancies so I was not hired as a CED until May of 1994. There are several who like to remind me that I just might be one of the longest tenure COTs, but those nearly 3 ½ years exposed me to all levels of the agency including work details in the State Office and WDC. I was hired as a CED in Ziebach County (western SD) in May of 1994, transferred to Sanborn County (central SD) in February of 1995, and ended up in Grant County in December of 1996 where I am still today.

During my time in Milbank, I have been on the City Council since 2001 along with being very active in youth activities. When I am not at a SDSU Jackrabbit event, you will usually find me at the high school where I operate the clock and announce the lineups.

I am a co-chair of the SDASCOE group that will be hosting the 2018 NASCOE Convention in Sioux Falls, SD. I attended the leadership/legislative conference held in WDC in September of 2016 and observed the dedication from the NASCOE leaders to make FSA a better agency. It helped me realize that I might want to consider getting involved with NASCOE beyond the state level. If elected, I feel that my diverse experience with FSA along with my leadership roles within SDASCOE will be an asset for the Northwest Area.