



# Meet the Candidates

## Cedar Falls Food Co-op 2017 Board of Directors Candidates

*The Cedar Falls Food Co-op is proud to be a community owned and democratically controlled business. One of the ways we make this happen is by electing our Board of Directors in our annual election. Board Directors are member-owners just like you, and are elected to represent the voice of our community.*

Only CFFC full-paid members are eligible to vote. Deadline to vote is 7:00pm, Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Complete election details can be found at [www.CedarFallsFood.coop](http://www.CedarFallsFood.coop). Here are the FOUR candidates running for THREE open seats. Each position is a 3-year term.



### JACQUELYN BERGGREN

**Current occupation:**

Student

**Education:**

Currently pursuing an AS in applied nutrition

**Why are you running for the Cedar Falls Food Co-op Board?**

I am running for the Cedar Falls Food Co-op Board so that I can offer further service as a working founding member owner in the Co-op. I would like to contribute energy, purposeful decision-making, research skills, and collaborative effort to ensure the Co-op doors open.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies? Do you have prior board experience?**

I serve on the CFFC Communications Committee and contribute the Recipe and New Member Spotlight articles. I worked as a volunteer with a non-profit, The House of Hope, under the direction of a Board of Directors. I sat in on Board

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### BLAKE CONOVER

**Current occupation:**

Owner, 1Vision, Inc.

**Education:**

BA in public service and administration from Iowa State University; credits towards MA in organizational leadership Crown College, St. Bonifacius, MN

**Why are you running for the Cedar Falls Food Co-op Board?**

I believe local businesses are vital to the future of Cedar Falls. I see towns in Iowa and across the Midwest drying up because they no longer have businesses with local ownership and control. Second, serving was a family tradition for us. My brothers and I learned as our parents gave of their energy for important projects or organizations. In the same way, one reason to run for the Co-op Board is to demonstrate to my kids that we should support causes we care about with our time. Finally, I feel that my professional experience working with dozens of nonprofits, from small to large, can bring a unique perspective to the discussions.

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### ANDREW QUENTIN MORSE

**Current occupation:**

Consultant and Project Director

**Education:**

BA in psychology from UNI; MS and PhD in higher education administration from University of Tennessee

**Why are you running for the Cedar Falls Food Co-op Board?**

I am running for the Board because I believe in the promise of healthy, locally-sourced, and sustainability produced food to enrich and transform communities. Coupled with my orientation as someone who, for better or worse, always sees an opportunity to create something big and do what is necessary to make it happen—I believe my passion for good food as a community development strategy will serve the Board well as it steers ever faster toward the launch of a physical store that is a vibrant addition to Cedar Falls.

**Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based,**

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### SCOTT B WIRTZ

**Current occupation:**

Certified Financial Planner  
Professional

**Education:**

BA in accounting from UNI

**Why are you running for the Cedar Falls Food Co-op Board?**

My first introduction to a food co-op was when my Dad bought a membership to a co-op in Newark, DE, where I was given the opportunity to work a Saturday or two each month when I was in high school. The co-op was a dark, dingy “storefront” in a cramped old single-story home off of Main Street—but filled with little treasures that I would take home. I developed a taste for Norwegian Crispbread with freshly ground cashew butter and fig paste for a while, and then stitched my allegiance to a boxed vanilla wafer of some sort paired with a fresh pear slice and Nutella. When I needed a change, it was apple slices with freshly ground peanut butter and sharp cheddar cheese. My point is that the food co-op allowed –and encouraged—me, as a young man,

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## JACQUELYN BERGGREN

meetings and discussed the fund raising event details. During my previous employment with a local mortgage servicer, I was part of a leadership team. In my position as a Senior Business Process Manager, I worked collaboratively with all levels of staff including the Executive level leaders. Previously, I was part of a Steering Committee of administrative specialists that worked together to improve the overall support of management level staff at CUNA Mutual. I took notes at Strategic Leadership meetings and management meetings where confidentiality was essential.

### *What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?*

The experiences I have had before becoming a founding member/owner of the Cedar Falls Food Co-op were centered on seeking out co-ops in communities to enjoy the shopping. I love the smells, sites, and flavors the experience brings to shoppers. There is such a feeling of community and graciousness among the people you find at a Co-op.

### *What food issues are you passionate about?*

My passion runs deep when it comes to food quality and nutrition. As my two-year degree program gets closer to the end, the combination of learning both the scientific and holistic side of nutrition has enhanced my belief in seeking out and purchasing as much local and organic product as I can to nourish myself, my family and my friends. I believe in supporting local farmers and businesses that provide quality products for our community. I am passionate about whole, nutritious food without the use of chemicals and preservatives. I think it's important to know where our food comes from, and how it is processed.

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## BLAKE CONOVER

### *Describe any relevant experience in working with consensus-based, group decision-making bodies? Do you have prior board experience?*

My work mainly involves directing volunteer-based organizations as they set a vision, embrace change, create and execute plans, and track results. Most recently, I had the pleasure of serving as President of the Waterloo Community Playhouse/Black Hawk Children's Theatre. I have also served on Boards for the Spencer Chamber of Commerce, two local RAGBRAI efforts, and my church.

### *What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?*

My experience with Food Co-ops is limited to shopping at them. I love the idea of fresh produce, not only for a healthier lifestyle, but also for an economic support for Cedar Valley farmers.

### *What food issues are you passionate about?*

I grew up on a production crop farm in Northwest Iowa that embraced the use of insecticides and herbicides. While I understand the role of chemicals to increase yields, my wife and I prefer an organic approach to our own flower and vegetable garden. I built my own composter this year and am excited about the results. (That certainly qualifies me for some geek competition somewhere!)

### *What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?*

Interesting fact only to me: For a few years in my work-life, I was an Editor for a start-up, monthly publication called Practical Gardener. Sadly it only lasted three years never reaching critical mass for a subscriber base, but it was a hoot writing and reading for a living about all things gardening

## ANDREW QUENTIN MORSE

### *group decision-making bodies? Do you have prior board experience?*

As a student at UNI, I had the pleasure of serving as the student body president. In that role, I was responsible for working with elected representatives from across campus to make lasting contributions for our campus community—the creation of a no-additional cost weekend transportation service (UNI SafeRide), management of a \$2.7 million student services fee, the implementation of a role primarily focused on diversity and inclusion, and others that required input, consensus-building, and leadership in order to achieve.

At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, I served as student body president a second time—this time for graduate and professional students—during which time I worked with University administrators and fellow student leaders to successfully double the amount of travel support for students' seeking money to attend and present original research at conferences. I also facilitated a successful restructuring of the Graduate Student Senate's by-laws to foster greater engagement and accountability by elected leaders than had been seen by the organization in recent years.

In my professional life, I have been accountable to governing boards in state-level government and non-profit settings for a variety of consensus-based projects and initiatives. While serving the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida, for example, I was responsible for stewarding a system-wide workgroup that successfully amended the System's quality assurance regulations related to academic programs.

### *What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?*

During my time at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, my wife, Amy, and I were regular consumers at the Three Rivers Market. It was at that time I learned about the promise

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## SCOTT B WIRTZ

to experiment with tastes. Had I not experimented at the co-op, I might have missed out on some of the most delicious combinations ever put together! I already knew about the beauty of putting together unsuspecting combinations, though. As a 4-H kid, I'd once planted a blue-ribbon garden with a bumper crop of zucchini. Part of the fun was taking the excess zucchini to friends and family. I will never forget how fantastic the loaf of chocolate chip-zucchini bread was that someone made with that zucchini!

I have decided to run for the Cedar Falls Food Co-op Board for a couple of reasons. First, I want kids who have a natural curiosity to be able to have a place to safely experiment with healthy foods that they might not have at home. Secondly, I want to help give the board perspective from my financial planning background. As a board member, I have previously worked with the Alpha Xi Delta Housing Corporation Board to help them understand the financial implications of purchasing, maintaining, and updating their property. I served as Treasurer for 4 years. I have worked with the St John Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund Board to help them understand the pros and cons of each of the strategies they were considering. I sat on this board for 4 years also. In my line of work, I work alongside families and small businesses on understanding their financial strengths and liabilities every day as we forge a path from where they are to where they want to be. Sometimes boards (as well as families and companies) want someone to help discuss the pros and the cons of a decision so that stakeholders are well informed. I think I can be a tremendous asset in that regard.



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### JACQUELYN BERGGREN

#### ***What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?***

I have a greater appreciation for researching and engaging in the learning process while earning my Nutrition degree which would help me to be a more productive contributing member of the Board. I have enjoyed embracing the Co-op objectives, goals, and learning about how a startup co-op process works. I have learned a lot about the Co-op business so far through my involvement on the Communications Committee and volunteering at many CFFC events. There is an excitement that exists around working to open a community hub, and I find it rewarding to continue to work with others to reach this goal. It has been a great pleasure getting to know so many wonderful people through this Co-op initiatives, and I look forward to opening the doors with all of you.

### ANDREW QUENTIN MORSE

of food co-ops to enrich communities. When I learned that a food co-op was in development for Cedar Falls—a community that my wife and I call “Home, Home”—I couldn’t help but get involved in establishing a co-op for our community.

#### ***What food issues are you passionate about?***

I am passionate about affordable, sustainable, and locally sourced food as a strategy to promote public health, environmental sustainability, and local economic development. State and national public health organizations align under the common theme that nutrition is a critical component to the prevention of disease, as well as the longevity and quality of life. Reducing the steps in the supply chain, and committing to sustainable farming practices, offers an environmentally friendly approach to produce food for the individuals and families that comprise our community. Bolstering the market for local farmers, and nurturing possibilities for the expansion and variety of locally-sourced produce allow for dollars that are earned in the Cedar Valley to stay in the Cedar Valley. Food co-ops create the environment for local farmers and consumers to capitalize on the promise of food to advance these principles.

#### ***What else should we know about you that would make you a good candidate for the launch Board?***

I am experienced with creating surveys, as well as analyzing, interpreting, and reporting data in useful ways. As the Board looks to create a data-informed strategy for a sound and sustainable future, I believe my skills will be able to cut across the various components of establishing a strong foundation for the launch of the Co-op and beyond.