



Candidate Application for National Office

What you can expect when applying for a National Board Position:

- Newly elected individuals will receive training from board members, and materials related to the position will be passed down.
- Newly elected board members will be required to attend the post Annual Session board meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual Session.

This form should be used as a guideline. When typing your own form, add more space as necessary.

Office Applied for: President-Elect Date: February 23, 2026

Cynthia (Cindy)	P.	Thompson
First Name:	Middle Name:	Last Name:
Extension Educator, Early Childhood Education	Iowa State University	
Job Title:	Employer:	
218 South Main, PO Box 700	Fayette	Iowa 52142
Work Mailing Address	City	State/Territory Zip
cpthom08@iastate.edu	2141 Horseshoe Dr, Independence, IA 50644	
Work Email Address	Home Email Address	
319-334-8013	NA	319-334-8013
Work Phone/Extension	Work Fax	Home Phone

I. Education Background

BS/BA	Psychology	Northwest Missouri State University	1991
	Major	Institution	Year
MS/MA	Human Development	Iowa State University	2011
	Major	Institution	Year
PhD	NA		
	Major	Institution	Year

II. State/Territory Affiliate Experience

Iowa Affiliate President Elect/Secretary (dual role)	2018
Iowa Affiliate President	2019
Iowa Affiliate Past President	2020
Committee Chair	Year(s)
Bylaws Committee	2019
Committee	Year(s)

Please email one copy of your completed application
to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).

NA – small affiliate which rarely uses committees

III. NEAFCS Experience

Office	Year(s)
Central Region Director	2021-2023
President-Elect Candidate	2023
Secretary	2024-2026
Committee Chair	Year(s)
Bylaws Committee	2024-2026
Other Assignments Representing NEAFCS	Year(s)
Professional Development Committee Member	2019
Professional Development Webinar Subcommittee Member	2020-2021
Concurrent Session Reviewer	Volunteered 2018, 2019, selected 2020, 2023
Awards Reviewer	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Volunteer at Annual Session	2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
Presented at JCEP	2019, 2023
Bylaw Committee	2021
Journal of NEAFCS Reviewer	2022
90 th Anniversary Celebration Committee/Secretary	2024
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	2023, 2024
Ambassador Committee/Liaison	2024-2026
NEAFCS Network Newsletter/Editor	2024-2026

Annual Sessions Attended – (11) (list years)

2025 (Grand Rapids, MI); 2024 (Tucson, AZ); 2023 (Providence, RI); 2022 (Raleigh, NC); 2021 (Virtual); 2020 (Virtual); 2019 (Hershey, PA); 2018 (San Antonio, TX); 2017 (Omaha, NE); 2016 (Big Sky, Montana); 2015 (White Springs, WV)

Submissions for Awards, Webinars and/or Annual Session Proposals (concurrent session, poster, ignite)
Submission did not have to be accepted.

Check all that apply:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Webinar Submission | Year(s): 2018, 2023 | |
| ✓ Annual Session Proposal | Year(s): 2017, 2018_____ | Proposal Type: _____ Concurrent_____ |
| ✓ Award Submission | Year(s): 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 | |

IV. Non-Association Extension Leadership Assignments

(Annual conference committees, search committees, etc.)

Assignments: Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Year(s)
Human Sciences Search Committee (A)	2014 & 2022
Human Sciences Community Council (A)	2014-2018

V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations

(Professional, civic, service, religious or agency related organizations)

Organizations, Leadership role	Year(s)
Volunteer Liaison, Girl Scouts of Lakota Council (A)	1997-1999
Secretary, St. John School Board (E)	2003-2004
Vacation Bible School Coordinator	2005-2009
Secretary, Independence Mustang Athletic Booster Club (E)	2011-2014
Iowa Army National Guard, 1-113 Cav Scout A-Troop, Key Caller (Kosovo Deployment)	2020-2021
Vice President, Pint's Water Association (neighborhood association) (E)	2021-2026

VI. Work Experience Other Than Extension (if applicable)

Positions	Year(s)
Training Coordinator , Child Care Resource & Referral of Northeast Iowa	2011 - 2012
Family Support Worker , Buchanan County Volunteer Co-op	2009 - 2011
Parent Services Coordinator , Child Care Resource & Referral	2003 - 2009
Trainer/Consultant , Program for Infant Toddler Care	2001 - 2008
Registered Family Child Care Provider , Self-Employed, Nebraska & Iowa	1992 – 2003

VII. Awards and Honors

Awards	Date(s)
- Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral, <i>Child Star Award</i>, 2025 - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, <i>Originality and Innovative Programming</i>; Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 2025 - NEAFCS; <i>Distinguished Service Award</i>, 2024 - NEAFCS 2nd Place Early Childhood Training; <i>Passport to Early Childhood</i>, 2023 (co-writer) - NEAFCS 2nd Place Human Development and Family Relationships: Virtual A Journey Through Parkinson's Disease, 2021 (lead writer) - NEAFCS 2nd Place Communication Award, Educational Publication; <i>COVID-19 Child Care Considerations</i>, 2020 (lead writer) - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, <i>Creative Service to All Iowans</i>; Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 2022 - NEAFCS 1st Place National Environmental Education Award; <i>Nurturing Nature Explorers in Northeast Iowa Project</i>, 2020 (lead writer) - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, <i>Creative Service to All Iowans</i>; Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 2020 - National Extension Diversity Award; U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, 2019 (for Juntos) - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Outstanding Practice in Community Engagement; Strengthening Relationships with the African American Community in Black Hawk County, 2019 - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Powerful Partnerships; Essential Child Care Training, 2019 - NEAFCS 1st Place Central Region Award; <i>Essential Pre-Service Online Training</i>, 2018 (lead writer) - NEAFCS 2nd Place Central Region Award; <i>Community Partnerships for Quality Child Care</i>, 2016 (lead writer) - NEAFCS 1st Place National Environmental Education Award; <i>Growing Up Wild: Reaching Out to Child Care Professionals and Families</i>, 2016 (lead writer) - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Powerful Partnerships; Affordable Care Act Team, 2015	

Please email one copy of your completed application
to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).

Position Statement

A. Why would you like to be a candidate for this office?

I would like to be a candidate for President-Elect because I believe in what NEAFCS provides its members, I want to give back to NEAFCS for all I have learned across my experiences with the organization, and I have the skills to effectively lead as President-Elect, and the roles that follow.

Like many others, I was overwhelmed as a new NEAFCS member, not fully understanding what the organization is all about and totally confused about Annual Session. I had great mentors, though, who fostered my curiosity, believed in my leadership skills, and supported my risk-taking as I attended Annual Sessions and explored leadership opportunities at the affiliate level. My success at the state affiliate level led to my interest in the Central Region Director role. I loved being Central Region Director! I learned so much about how different states organize their affiliates, I learned a wide variety of new communication strategies, and I even learned how to travel by air on my own! I was so motivated after such a positive Central Region Director experience that I took a huge risk and ran for NEAFCS President-elect. That proved not to be my time, and I learned a lot about myself in the process – especially how to be resilient when faced with setbacks. I pursued the role of National Secretary the following year, a position that has allowed me to utilize many of my strengths while learning much more about NEAFCS, including our organizational guidelines and committee work. Serving in two different board positions has helped me experience a wider range of board responsibilities as well as different group dynamics as board members shift each year. My expanded leadership opportunities with NEAFCS have supported and paralleled increased responsibilities in my Extension career, including a shift from a regional educator to one serving the entire state of Iowa. Growth often requires discomfort, and NEAFCS has provided a safe and supportive environment for me to take risks that have brought about both personal and professional growth. The next evolution of that growth is running again for President-elect. The knowledge I have developed over the last several years, coupled with my skills in communication, facilitation, and mentorship, provide a strong foundation for me to serve our membership in the President roles. I owe it to myself, and the friends, family, mentors, and colleagues who have believed in me over the years, to not back down from this huge opportunity to lead NEAFCS and explore new avenues of growth for myself and the organization.

B. If you were elected, what would be your top priority/goal for your term?

When trying to organize my thoughts around this question, the quote by Pete Hoekstra came to mind: *Real leadership is leaders recognizing that they serve the people that they lead*. The work of Extension, and as a result, our NEAFCS organization, has experienced many changes in the last few years. It would be self-serving and nearsighted of me to identify goals I want to achieve in the president roles, not knowing what the priorities of our memberships will be 6-18 months from now. However, I can speak to my broad priorities for NEAFCS and personal goals I have for the positions of President-elect, President, and Immediate Past President.

NEAFCS Goals: My goals for NEAFCS would continue to reflect the strategic plan established in 2024. Much time and effort went into identifying priorities, and moving those priorities forward should be the focus of our leadership. With that said, staying flexible and responsive is equally important. Recent NEAFCS leaders have kept their fingers on the pulse of family and consumer sciences across the country and have responded quickly with compassion and support. My hope is to be a leader who can do the same. A major responsibility of the NEAFCS President is leading our national executive board, and a priority of mine would be leading this group of dedicated members with both heart and efficiency. If elected, I have ideas for how to individually support board officers as they serve membership throughout the year. Also, during executive board meetings, honoring board officers' time, talents, perspectives and leadership skills would be key to my leadership approach.

Personal Goals: If elected as President-elect, my goals would be to stay true to who I am while growing in new and unexpected ways. I am a thoughtful, kind, respectful, energetic and dependable professional who appreciates one-on-one conversations and creating a sense of belonging with all. I have skills in facilitation, consensus building, adult education, and mentorship that I will utilize in the President roles. Leading our organization takes a growth mindset and a deep commitment to collaboration. I have learned much along my journey as an NEAFCS member, and my goal as NEAFCS President would be to continue developing my leadership skills to the benefit of both NEAFCS and broader Extension career.

Are you willing to be considered as a candidate for a different office? The national nominating committee chair would contact you first as to your preference and willingness to serve in any other position. Not eligible Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐

Are you willing to leave your application on file for three (3) years in the event of a position vacancy or for reconsideration for office for the next election? Yes ☐ No ☐

Upon applying for the position, I acknowledge that I will have the necessary resources (i.e. computer, internet, etc.) to complete the duties of the position. ☐ I agree

Your signature below confirms that you have read the current [NEAFCS Policy Manual](#) and agree to the duties and qualifications for the position in which you are applying for as well as the policies around Campaigning and Nominations and understand that intentional campaigning is strictly prohibited.



Signature of Applicant

____ February 23, 2026 ____
Date

Letters of support and recommendation from the following individuals must accompany the application.

- ▶ State Director of Extension (required)
- ▶ State Program Leader or immediate supervisor (one required)
- ▶ NEAFCS board member or state/territory affiliate officer (one required)

**Applications are due to the National Nominating Committee Chair by May 1st.
Please include with your application a high resolution headshot photo for the
candidate display at Annual Session.**

NEAFCS provides professional development for Extension professionals who provide education and outreach to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities. NEAFCS is committed to providing a professional association that is open and accessible to all eligible individuals. Membership and participation are open to all without regard to legally protected status, and membership is not by invitation.



National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Danielle Day
NEAFCS-Iowa Affiliate President
800 N Maple St, Ste. 2
Monticello, IA 52310

December 20, 2025

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in strong support of Cindy Thompson's application for the position of National President for the NEAFCS National Executive Board. Cindy brings a depth of organizational knowledge, leadership experience, and thoughtful guidance that aligns exceptionally well with the responsibilities of the President-Elect and the office of President. Having worked with Cindy in various leadership capacities over the past 13 years, I have consistently observed her ability to provide clear direction, maintain strong organizational structure, and communicate effectively across diverse audiences—skills that are essential to the leadership role of President and advancing the strategic priorities of the association. Cindy's attention to detail, follow-through, and respect for established policies and procedures ensure that decisions and actions are implemented accurately and with intention.

In her mentoring role with human sciences specialists at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Cindy has demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership development and member engagement. She actively encourages new professionals to become involved in NEAFCS, promotes attendance at Annual Session, and supports participation in committees and leadership opportunities. These efforts directly reflect the

role's responsibility to coordinate and align action plans, foster leadership readiness, and support the long-term sustainability of the association.

Cindy's thorough knowledge of NEAFCS governance has been an invaluable asset to the Iowa Affiliate. She is frequently consulted on matters related to bylaws, parliamentary procedure, and organizational policy. During her term as Iowa Affiliate President, Cindy led a comprehensive update of the affiliate bylaws—work that required collaboration, strategic planning, and careful attention to organizational integrity. These experiences clearly prepare her for the President's role in maintaining the Policies and Procedures Manual and leading strategic plan implementation at the national level. Additionally, Cindy's service as a Central Region Director provided her with a broad understanding of affiliate operations and member needs across multiple states. This perspective will serve her well as President-Elect and future President, particularly in coordinating the work of regional leadership, supporting the Executive Board, and representing NEAFCS within Extension and professional partner organizations, while strengthening and encouraging connection across the national organization.

The President-Elect position calls for a leader who is prepared to guide strategic action, collaborate effectively with national officers, and assume the full responsibilities of the presidency with confidence and vision. Cindy Thompson exemplifies these qualities. Her leadership, institutional knowledge, and dedication to NEAFCS and extension education make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve in this role and to lead the association as its future President.

With Support,



Danielle Day

NEAFCS-Iowa Affiliate President

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Tandalayo Kidd, PhD, RD, LPN
Associate Dean and Director
Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach
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901 Strange Road
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Email: tkidd@iastate.edu

January 15, 2026

Chair, National Nominating Committee
National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support for Ms. Cindy Thompson as a candidate for President-Elect for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS). As Associate Dean and Director of Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach, I am familiar with Ms. Thompson, her work, and her valuable contributions to our shared vision of empowering people to live their best lives.

Ms. Thompson is a Health and Human Sciences educator focused on statewide early childhood education, consultation, and mentorship. She co-leads two statewide initiatives and, in these roles, regularly collaborates with early childhood stakeholders across the state. She is seen as a valuable Extension mentor and experienced educator. In 2025, she was awarded the Iowa Child Star award from Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral for her ongoing efforts to advocate for young children. Ms. Thompson consistently demonstrates enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a dedication to collaboration.

As an active member and leader within NEAFCS, Ms. Thompson was proactive and strategic, working with her supervisor and Extension leadership to establish a plan for success across her local, regional, and state responsibilities, while balancing her NEAFCS responsibilities. She has served as the Iowa Affiliate president and, at the national level, has served as the Central Region Director, the 90th Anniversary Secretary, and is currently the national secretary. She has received numerous national team and individual awards, provided presentations at conference concurrent sessions and live webinars, and served as a reviewer for awards, presentations, and journal publications. These experiences have provided a strong foundation for serving as NEAFCS's national president.

Given her many talents and her proactive approach, I, as a representative of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, am in full support of Ms. Thompson's nomination as NEAFCS President-Elect. I also understand that if elected, Ms. Thompson will serve a 3-year term on the President's Council: President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past-President. I will be most pleased to support her as she serves the national membership in these roles, if given the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Tandalayo Kidd, PhD, RD, LPN
Associate Dean | Director
College of Health and Human Sciences
Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Jason Henderson, Ph.D.
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January 16, 2026

Chair, National Nominating Committee

National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dear Chairperson,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Cindy Thompson as a candidate for the National Office of NEAFCS President-Elect. As Vice President for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, I have observed Ms. Thompson's work from an administrative and system-wide point of view.

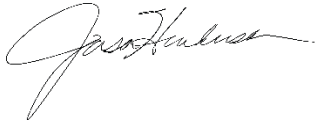
Ms. Thompson is a health and human sciences educator focused on early childhood education, consultation, and mentorship across Iowa. She has demonstrated strong communication, organization, team building, participant engagement, and facilitation skills in this role. She co-leads two statewide early childhood projects and recently won an award from a statewide partner for her dedication to young children in Iowa.

In her twelve years as a member of NEAFCS, Ms. Thompson has had many opportunities to grow as an Extension professional and develop her leadership skills. She served as the Iowa affiliate president and set in motion many changes that have significantly grown membership. At the national level, she has served as the Central Region director, 90th Anniversary Celebration secretary, and is currently the national secretary. She has also won multiple awards, delivered concurrent sessions and webinars, and served as a reviewer in a wide variety of capacities. Ms. Thompson has the skills and experience to serve as NEAFCS president.

Ms. Thompson has met with her supervisors, mentors, and Extension leadership several times to explore her readiness for serving as a national president. Given her robust skill set, proactive approach, eagerness to learn and willingness to serve, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach fully supports Ms. Thompson's nomination as

NEAFCS President-Elect. I also understand that if elected, Ms. Thompson will serve a 3-year term on the President's Council: President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President. If elected, we will provide Ms. Thompson with the financial resources related to the time required to deliver on her responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Henderson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Jason Henderson

Vice President for Extension and Outreach

