



Candidate Application for National Office

Office Applied for: Vice President of Professional Development

Date: March 16, 2026

Courtney	Lynn	Aldrich	
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Program Instructor, Child and Family Development		Michigan State University Extension	
Job Title		Employer	
705 N. Zeeb Rd.	Ann Arbor	MI	48103
Work Mailing Address	City	State/Territory	Zip
Aldric82@msu.edu	Cdaldrich1@gmail.com		
Work Email Address	Home Email Address		
(734)222-3943 (office) or (517)993-8649 (cell)		517 993-8649	
Work Phone/Extension	Work Fax	Home Phone	

I. Education Background

BS/BA	B.S. Engineering	University of Michigan	1990
	Major	Institution	Year
Post Bac			
Certification	Secondary Teaching Certificate,	Eastern Michigan University	1996
	Major	Institution	Year
Post Bac			
Certification	Early Childhood Certificate of Proficiency	Concordia University	2004
	Major	Institution	Year
MS/MA	M. A. Educational Psychology	Eastern Michigan University	2016
	Major	Institution	Year

II. State/Territory Affiliate Experience

Office	Year(s)
Secretary	2026
Interim V.P. Professional Development	2025
Past President	2025
President	2024
President Elect	2023
V.P. Member Resources	2022

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

V.P. Awards	2020, 2021
Committee: Member Resources	2019
Committee: Public Affairs	2018

III. NEAFCS Experience

Other Assignments Representing NEAFCS	Year(s)
Annual Session Liaison	2025
Access, Engagement Outreach Committee	2022-2026
Annual Session Ambassador	2022
Annual Session Liaison	2021
Annual Sessions Attended (list years)	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

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): 2023_____	
☒ Annual Session Proposal session	Year(s): 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026	Proposal Type: concurrent
☒ Annual Session Proposal	Year(s): 2020_____	Proposal Type: Poster
☒ Award Submission	Year(s): 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2026	

IV. Non-Association Extension Leadership Assignments

(Annual conference committees, search committees, etc.)

Assignments: Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Year(s)
Search committee Support Staff (A)	2019
Search committee Support Staff (A)	2020
Search committee Associate Institute Director(A)	2020
Search committee Program Delivery Educator(A)	2021
Search committee District Director(A)	2023
Search committee Finance Educator(A)	2024

V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations

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

Organizations, Leadership role

Year(s)

National Association for the Education of Young Children, Member	2004-2026
Chelsea House Orchestra, Tour Coordinator	2026
Chelsea First United Methodist Church, Confirmation Leader	2011/2012, 2025/26
Chelsea House Orchestra Board President	2013- 2017
Chelsea House Orchestra Board Vice President	2012-2013
Company C, House Manager	2011-2013
4-H Leader	2011-2014
Band Mardi Gras Committee Member	2012-2014
Chelsea First United Methodist Church, Glory Choir Director	2011-2014
Chelsea First United Methodist Church, Confirmation Mentor	4 years
Chelsea First United Methodist Church, Sunday School Teacher	8 years
Vacation Bible School, Director	3 years
Chelsea Music Boosters, Member	3 years
Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool, President	2 years
Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool, Session Representative	2 years
Director Family Science Night and Science Fair, Director	2 years
"Super Saturday" Science Teacher	1 year

VI. Work Experience Other Than Extension (if applicable)

Positions

Year(s)

Director Of Children and Family Ministries, Chelsea First United Methodist Church July 2014-July 2017

Plan and execute programming and care for children birth – 5th grade, including curriculum development as well as service project events. Serve as primary worship leader (i.e. "preacher") one Sunday/month. Develop, implement, and execute parent and marriage education classes. Plan and implement family fellowship events. Develop and implement guidelines for protection of children and youth. Serve as director for over 160 volunteer staff. Utilize technology such as PowerPoint, Word, and MailChimp to create presentations and communications

Director And 3's and 4's Teacher, Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool Sept. 2004-May 2014

Plan and execute curriculum and programming for three- and four-year-olds, including day to day lessons as well as special events. Administer and direct the staff of the preschool, as well as the programming plan for the organization. Provide parenting education in the form of presentations, articles and individual support as needed. Work in conjunction with parent volunteers and a parent board to operate the non-profit business. Function as a liaison between the organization and the community, particularly the school district.

Music Together Specialist, Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool Sept. 2013-May 2014

Plan and execute music instruction for children and families in accordance with the licensing agreement with the Music Together franchise.

Adult Education Teacher, Chelsea School District 1998-2001

Plan and execute individualized mathematics instruction for adult education. Work within a prison environment to teach skills in all subject areas needed to test for the GED (General Education Development) test.

Design Engineer, Ford Motor Company 1990-1995

Develop seating package requirements and design for truck platforms.

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

VII. Awards and Honors

Awards	Date(s)
NEAFCS Multi State Collaboration National Award	2023
NEAFCS Human Development and Family Relations Regional Award	2022
NEAFCS Florence Hall Team Award	2021
NEAFCS Innovation in Programming Team Award	2021
NEAFCS Social Media Team Award	2021
NEAFCS Past President's New Professional Award	2020
NEAFCS Early Childhood Child Care Training Award	2020
NEAFCS Community Partnership Award	2019
Huron Valley Council of Cooperative Nurseries Member of the Year Award	2003

Position Statement

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

I am energized by learning, creative problem-solving, and motivating and serving others. I believe serving as your Vice President of Professional Development will allow me to share that energy in support of NEAFCS and its members. At the heart of Extension is education, and one of the greatest strengths of NEAFCS is how it supports its members as educators. It is the opportunity to learn through research based professional development webinars, sessions, and meetings that supports our growth as educators and reminds us of the importance of what we bring to communities. It is the opportunity to collaborate with others that sparks new ideas and motivates us to be better in our work. It is the encouragement to grow in leadership that allows us to find our voice and believe in our ability to make a difference. Professional development is one of the core tenets of the mission, vision, and values of NEAFCS, and I would be honored to hold a role that supports and moves our professional development purpose forward.

As a two-time Annual Session Liaison (surprise!), I had an opportunity to utilize creative problem-solving skills as we navigated a Covid resurgence and movement to a virtual platform in 2021, and a new regional model of annual session planning in 2025. When faced with new hurdles, new systems, and unexpected changes, my immediate reaction is to think, "There is a way -- we just need to figure it out." I experience satisfaction and accomplishment from trying something new, solving a complicated problem, or even addressing a "crisis" in the moment. As we move forward with a revised handbook for Annual Session, I look forward to the challenges and opportunities a new model will bring.

In many ways, it is the "we've got this" mindset that emerges as a motivator for others who I work with, and it is also how I serve others. I truly believe in new possibilities, new ideas, and continuous improvement in everything I am a part of. It is important to me to listen first for understanding before speaking. I then make an effort to communicate in a positive, clear, and collaborative manner. The NEAFCS creed speaks of meeting the needs and goals of our communities through a learning partnership. I love the phrase "learning partnership". It speaks to an association that is inclusive and affirming of all perspectives, all cultures, and places a person in a leadership position learning alongside those whom they lead. That is how I want to be as a leader, and how I want to encourage others to grow through the professional development opportunities in NEAFCS.

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

I think there are two levels of top priorities – the immediate and specific priorities versus the broader priorities. Taking the broader perspective, in keeping with my values around servant leadership, it is really important to me to make sure as a board member I am always connecting, listening, and learning alongside our members. I want to be visible and accessible. I want to center the needs of our members as we consider professional development opportunities, methods of delivery, content, and accessibility. I think it is important to reflect on both current practices as well as new ideas for the future, making sure we are making decisions based on expressed needs and wants instead of just habit or the excitement

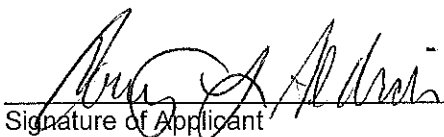
of change. From a more immediate perspective, I understand the importance of the annual session liaisons having strong support from the board, particularly when navigating new procedures, and I would prioritize my support for that process.

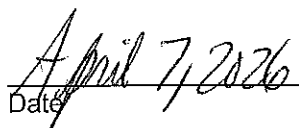
Are you willing to be considered as a candidate for a different office? The national nominating committee chair would contact you first as to your preference and willingness to serve in any other position. Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☒

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


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.

March 27, 2026

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

I am writing in my capacity as Director of the Health and Nutrition Institute at Michigan State University Extension and State Program Leader for Family and Consumer Sciences to offer my enthusiastic support for the nomination of **Courtney Aldrich** for the role of Vice President of Professional Development with the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS).

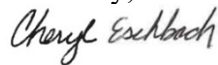
Courtney is an exceptional Extension professional whose dedication to NEAFCS is evident through her consistent and reliable contributions at the state level. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the mission of the association, and her engagement reflects both professionalism and a genuine passion for service. Her leadership was especially evident at the 2025 NEAFCS Annual Conference, where she served as a tri-leader. In this role, Courtney distinguished herself through her effective management, collaborative approach, and ability to lead with clarity and purpose. She navigated complex responsibilities with confidence and professionalism, earning the respect of her peers and showcasing her readiness for national leadership. She was a great connector across Extension program areas to secure funds as well.

Courtney is highly dependable and brings a thoughtful, solutions-oriented mindset to her work. She is passionate about professional development and understands the importance of supporting Extension professionals in building skills, confidence, and impact. This is an ideal time in her career for her to step into a national leadership role, and I am confident she will excel.

Michigan State University Extension fully supports Courtney's nomination and her service in this capacity. We are proud to support her as she represents our organization at the national level.

Courtney Aldrich is an outstanding candidate for Vice President of Professional Development. I strongly recommend her for this role and am confident she will serve NEAFCS with excellence.

Cordially,



Cheryl L. Eschbach, Ph.D.
Director, Health and Nutrition Institute
Michigan State University Extension
State Program Leader, Family and Consumer Sciences



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are open to all without regard to
race, color, national origin,
gender, gender identity, religion,
age, height, weight, disability,
political beliefs, sexual
orientation, marital status, family
status or veteran status.

Michigan State University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture and
counties cooperating.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

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<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/>

March 2, 2026

To: NEAFCS National Nominating Committee
From: Cindy Thompson, Statewide Extension Educator in Early Childhood Education
NEAFCS National Secretary

Dear Nominating Committee,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I provide this letter of support for Courtney Aldrich as a candidate for NEAFCS Vice President of Professional Development. I met Courtney 5 years ago through NEAFCS, and over the past five years she and I have had several opportunities to work closely. Her professionalism, passion for Extension work, love of NEAFCS and deep desire for all to be included make her a perfect candidate for the NEAFCS Executive Board.

I first met Courtney when I was serving as the Central Region Director and she was in a leadership position with the Michigan NEAFCS affiliate. Courtney was always responsive to emails, asked thoughtful and thorough questions that showed an understanding of the organization and a desire to do right by members in her state, and engaged fully in opportunities to connect with other leadership in the central region. As my term as Central Region Director drew to a close, I was so confident in her leadership skills I approached her about running for Central Region Director. She declined, and instead stepped into an even bigger role!

Courtney served as one of the tri-liaisons for the 2026 Annual Session in Grand Rapids, MI. As National Secretary, I had the opportunity during board meeting to observe first-hand Courtney's thoroughness and ability to articulate clearly the goals and direction of the planning committee. It was clear her detail-focused approach and consensus building skills were being well utilized. It was my complete delight to see Courtney on stage at Annual Session with the other tri-liaisons! Courtney was clear and inviting in her communication, stayed calm under pressure, and easily engaged the audience each time she was on stage.

I have had two additional unique opportunities to interact with Courtney – one within NEAFCS and one in a multi-state project. Courtney and I were part of a group from the NEAFCS Access, Engagement, and Outreach committee who organized a concurrent session on creating a sense of belonging in Extension work. The committee worked together during a time of great uncertainty across land-grant universities regarding the topic of belonging. The committee had many conversations about how to organize the presentation, and Courtney was thoughtful and professional for each discussion. Courtney has a clear vision of what it means to belong, and she works diligently to bring her values on belonging to the forefront. It will be second-nature to her to ensure all voices are heard within the NEAFCS professional development committees.

Courtney is part of multistate network focused on early childhood in the north-central region. This past year Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has become involved in this network of professionals. Courtney was gracious enough to meet with me one-on-one to help me understand the background of the group. When Iowa's early childhood state specialist had an opportunity to interact with Courtney, she was immediately impressed with Courtney's professionalism and intuitiveness.

Courtney has what it takes to be a strong leader on the NEAFCS Executive Board, especially in the role of VP of Professional Development. She is organized, articulate, detail-oriented, and values ensuring others feel like they belong. She also has ***first-hand knowledge*** of what it takes to organize a successful Annual Session. Having served on the National Executive Board in two different positions, I understand what it takes to contribute successfully on the board... and Courtney would be an exceptional addition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia P. Thompson".

Cynthia (Cindy) Thompson

Extension Educator and NEAFCS National Secretary

March 3, 2026

Dear Members of the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Selection Committee,

It is my distinct pleasure to offer this letter of enthusiastic support for Courtney Aldrich's nomination for the role of Vice President of Professional Development for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS). Courtney serves as a Prog. Instructor and she consistently demonstrates the leadership, organizational expertise, and communication excellence that this role demands.

Her leadership experience within Extension and the Association is both broad and deep. At the state level with MEAFCS, Courtney has held numerous formal leadership roles, including Vice President of Member Resources, Vice President of Awards, interim Vice President of Professional Development, and President (serving as president-elect, president, and past president). Nationally, she has contributed as Annual Session Liaison in 2021 and again in 2025, providing continuity and strategic insight. She has also served on the NEAFCS Access, Outreach and Engagement Committee, where she led the development of Annual Session programming in 2022 and 2023. Within Michigan State University Extension, Courtney naturally emerges as a leader on work teams, particularly in programming, evaluation, and outreach initiatives. Her ability to lead both formally and informally reflects her collaborative spirit and strong professional presence.

Courtney's organizational skills are exceptional. She has demonstrated this through her meticulous planning efforts for Annual Session at the national level, where attention to detail and coordination are critical. In her work with the Child and Family Development team, she oversees complex components of virtual programming, including scheduling, marketing, class setup, instruction, participation tracking, statewide registry credit, and certification processes. Her ability to manage multiple interconnected systems with efficiency and accuracy is a testament to her readiness for a national leadership role focused on professional development.



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Office of the Director**

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Equally impressive are Courtney's communication skills. She speaks with energy, clarity, and authenticity, qualities that inspire confidence and engagement. Whether presenting in Michigan's communities or leading sessions at NEAFCS webinars and Annual Sessions, she communicates in a way that is both accessible and impactful. Her ability to connect with diverse audiences makes her especially well-suited to guide professional development efforts that support members across the country.

Above all, Courtney is deeply committed to continuous improvement through learning, collaboration, and open communication. She approaches her work with integrity, purpose, and a genuine desire to elevate others. I am confident that she will bring vision, structure, and enthusiasm to the Vice President of Professional Development role and will serve the Association with distinction.

I offer my strongest endorsement of Courtney Aldrich for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Quentin R. Tyler, Ph.D.

Director, MSU Extension

Senior Associate Dean of Outreach and Engagement, CANR

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Extension programs and materials
are open to all without regard to
race, color, national origin,
gender, gender identity, religion,
age, height, weight, disability,
political beliefs, sexual
orientation, marital status, family
status or veteran status.

Michigan State University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture and
counties cooperating.

