



# 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.
- Candidates will be invited to join the Pre-National Board Meeting as an observer to become familiar with board business (will not be reimbursed by National to attend)
- Newly elected Executive Board members may be reimbursed for one night's lodging for post board meeting (at a rate of ½ of double room) but are not reimbursed for additional travel costs. Meal reimbursement for day of post board meeting will follow Policy Manual and current approved budget.

Office Applied for: Central Region Director

Date: March 24, 2021

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

Cynthia (prefer Cindy)	P	Thompson
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Human Sciences Specialist, Family Life	Iowa State University Extension and Outreach	
Job Title	Employer	
218 South Main Street, P.O. Box 700	Fayette	IA 52142
Work <b>Mailing</b> Address	City	State/Territory Zip
<a href="mailto:cpthom08@iastate.edu">cpthom08@iastate.edu</a>	kcthom6@yahoo.com	
Work Email Address	Home Email Address	
319-334-8013		
Work Phone/Extension	Work Fax	Home Phone

## I. Education Background

<input checked="" type="radio"/> BS/BA	Psychology	Northwest Missouri State University	1991
	Major	Institution	Year
<input checked="" type="radio"/> MS/MA	Human Development & Family Studies	Iowa State University	2011
	Major	Institution	Year
PhD			
	Major	Institution	Year

## II. NEAFCS Experience

**Office** **Year(s)**

No previous experience holding office at the National level.

**Committee Chair** **Year(s)**

Served on committees by not as chair.

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

**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

Awards Reviewer

2021

Volunteer at Annual Session

2019

Presented at JCEP

2019

Bylaw Committee

2021

**Annual Sessions Attended (list years)**

2020 – Virtual    2019- Hershey    2018 – San Antonio    2017 – Omaha    2016 – Montana    2015 – West Virginia

**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\_\_\_\_\_

✓ Annual Session Proposal                Year(s): 2017, 2018\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Concurrent\_\_\_\_\_

✓ Award Submission                        Year(s): 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020\_\_

**III. State/Territory Affiliate Experience  
Office****Year(s)**

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)**

NA – small affiliate which rarely uses committees

**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

Human Sciences Community Council (A)

2014-2018

Served as secretary for most of my time on Community Council

Chair of multiple regional teams

**V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations****Please email one copy of your completed application  
to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).**

**(Professional, civic, service, religious or agency related organizations)  
Organizations, Leadership role**

	<b>Year(s)</b>
Volunteer Liaison, Girl Scouts of Lakota Council (A)	1997-1999
St. John School Board (E)	2001-2004
Vacation Bible School Coordinator	2005-2009
Secretary, Independence Mustang Athletic Booster Club (E)	2011-2014

**VI. Work Experience Other Than Extension (if applicable)  
Positions**

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

**VII. Awards and Honors  
Awards**

**Date(s)**

- *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Powerful Partnerships; Affordable Care Act Team, 2015 (team award)*
- *NEAFCS 1<sup>st</sup> Place National Environmental Education Award; Growing Up Wild: Reaching Out to Child Care Professionals and Families, 2016 (team award, lead writer)*
- *NEAFCS 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Central Region Award; Community Partnerships for Quality Child Care, 2016 (team award, lead writer)*
- *NEAFCS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Central Region Award; Essential Pre-Service Online Training, 2018 (team award, lead writer)*
- *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Powerful Partnerships; Essential Child Care Training, 2019 (team award)*
- *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 (team award)*
- *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 (team award)*
- *Creative to Service to All Iowans; Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 2020*
- *NEAFCS 1<sup>st</sup> Place National Environmental Education Award; Nurturing Nature Explorers, 2020 (team award, lead writer)*

**Position Statement**

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

I consider myself an introvert – I'm completely content to spend a day reading, working in my garden, or doing a jigsaw puzzle. Growing up, this was considered being shy, and not a very desirable quality. I've been fortunate, though, as my career has unfolded, to discover some hidden strengths; an ability to engage audiences, to build effective teams, and a strong ability to communicate, especially through writing. In my extension career, others have recognized these and other strengths, some I initially didn't even see in myself, including the leadership potential to serve as our affiliate's president. It was my first ever position as a president, and I loved the role! I meet with a past national president over a very long lunch prior to my year as president and was inspired to try a few new things during my tenure. I organized our affiliate's first social event in recent memory, co-wrote (with the past national president) a monthly NEAFCS article for our Human Sciences Extension and Outreach weekly e-newsletter, and found a creative way to showcase members during our department's December in-service. As I wrapped up my year serving the Iowa affiliate, my thoughts went to what might be next, and Central Region Director feels like a great fit for my strengths and interests.

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

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

If elected to the position of Central Region Director, my first priority would be to create a sense of community among the central region presidents. During my tenure as affiliate president, I wasn't aware the Central Region Director was available to me for questions and support. I heard from the director when requests for information and/or volunteers were needed, so I came to understand the relationship as "top-down". It wasn't until I attended more business meetings, association meetings at JCEP, and became more involved in committee work, that I understood the liaison role a regional director could play. I foresee a virtual gathering early in the calendar year to celebrate the central region presidents, individually emailing state presidents periodically to check in and see how things are going, and giving as much lead time as possible when requests from states are necessary. I also see a pre-annual session virtual meeting to provide information and answer questions. I want to be visible to the central region presidents and their affiliates, as well as be responsive and approachable.

At the national level, my priorities would be to support, maintain, and build upon the current momentum around leadership. Many of our members are not rewarded at the state level for their involvement in professional organizations. The new programs around mentorship and leadership are clear and concrete benefits for members. I believe the enthusiasm, dedication, and professionalism of the teams behind these projects are what our organization needs to stay viable as we look ahead to a significant number of retirements and the uncertain long-term implications of the pandemic.

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

**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 additional policies outlined in the Manual.**



Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_ March 24, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 president (optional)

**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 is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)*

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

Sara Sprouse  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Van Buren County  
1313 First Street, PO Box 456  
Keosauqua, IA 52565

March 12, 2021

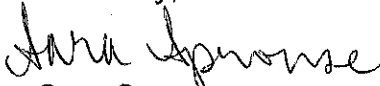
To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am recommending Cindy Thompson to you as a candidate for the Central Region Director position. I am the current president of the Iowa Affiliate and have worked closely with Cindy since she was affiliate president in 2019.

Cindy would be a great asset to the National Board. Cindy possesses excellent communication and organizational skills, creativity, and flexibility. Cindy is a compassionate leader with the ability to bring people together. Cindy has been innovative in creating opportunities for members to engage in our affiliate by planning the first social event for members to network and participate in a personal development experience. Cindy's strengths also include being responsible and dependable. When asked to review a presentation recently, Cindy promptly completed proofreading and providing valuable feedback that led to the success of the presentation.

I believe that Cindy Thompson will be an excellent candidate for the Central Region Director position. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at 319-293-3039 or [sprouse@iastate.edu](mailto:sprouse@iastate.edu) and I'll be happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,



Sara Sprouse  
Iowa Affiliate President

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

Vice President  
2150 Beardshear Hall  
Ames, Iowa 50011-2046  
Phone: (515) 294-5390  
Fax: (515) 294-4715  
[www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu)

March 15, 2021

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

Dear Chairperson:

I write the letter in support of Cindy Thompson's application to be considered as Central Region Director of NEAFCS. Cindy is an outstanding extension educator in northeast Iowa and has proven herself as an effective leader within our organization. She has participated in or led several initiatives for Human Sciences Extension and Outreach at Iowa State University and has been recognized for her effort with four team awards in the last five years including the USDA-NIFA National Extension Diversity Award in 2019. Cindy has also received four NEAFCS awards during 2015-2020, two at the north central region and two at the national level. Each of these awards speak to her creativity and knowledge as an educator; effectiveness as member of a team; and her determination to see a project through evaluation and submission of an award application.

Cindy has the skills, passion, and commitment necessary to be an effective officer in a national organization. I fully support her application for this position and if successful will provide her the time necessary to execute her duties at the national level. The position will allow Cindy to grow as a leader which will benefit NEAFCS and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

If you have additional questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



John D. Lawrence  
Vice President for Extension and Outreach

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach

Wayne County Extension  
220 East Jefferson, Suite #1  
Corydon, IA 50060  
Phone: 641-872-1755  
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<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wayne/>

March 17, 2021

**TO: Nomination Committee, NEAFCS**  
**RE: Cindy Thompson, candidate for central region director**

I am pleased to write in support of Cindy Thompson as a candidate for the national office of central region director for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. As Cindy's supervisor, plus being a 46-year member of NEAFCS with national board experience including two years as central region director, I am in a unique position to speak to Cindy's fit for this office.

Cindy is a Family Life Program Specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach serving nine counties in northeast Iowa. She provides learning opportunities to help individuals acquire knowledge and skills in multiple aspects of family life. These include: early development, care and education, parenting, relationship education, literacy, family caregiving, and aging. Cindy has a passion for working with childcare providers as well as programming related to environment and nature education.

Cindy has valuable Extension experience with skills that transfer to working with a national board and national office staff. Some examples are: communicating regularly with Extension employees at different levels (county, region, state); leading program specific work teams; interacting with coalitions of external entities; communicating and teaching using multiple technology platforms; and writing follow-up reports and success stories. Colleagues see Cindy as an excellent communicator, teacher, and team player.

As an 8-year member of NEAFCS, Cindy's involvement at both the state and national levels are integral to her understanding of the organization. From committee work to officer roles to conferences – Cindy spends time learning, sharing, and advancing the mission of NEAFCS.

NEAFCS needs national officers who have a background and understanding about the organization. Cindy told me she initially joined NEAFCS because she saw people she respected were members. Then in 2015, two colleagues suggested she attend the annual session in West Virginia. On the drive together halfway across the country, they prepared Cindy for what to expect and then saw to it that she fully experienced all the

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sessions and activities. By the time she returned to Iowa, Cindy was hooked. Her words to me were, "Now I understand! I get why you are passionate about NEAFCS." Cindy attended a couple more annual sessions and continued to learn about the association. Then she began serving in various capacities at the state and national level.

NEAFCS needs national officers who appreciate the opportunity to serve the national organization. Cindy started with leadership positions at the state level. When she became affiliate president elect, she wanted to learn more about the history of NEAFCS. Cindy asked me to spend a day with her sharing and learning. As past national president and historian of the Iowa affiliate, I was able to weave together a story that gave Cindy the foundation to keep building on. This illustrates how Cindy approaches her work – doing everything she can to prepare herself to be successful.

NEAFCS needs national officers, and specifically central region directors, who grasp the many facets of the organization. Cindy has multiple experiences on the national level: serving on committees, submitting applications and receiving regional and national awards, submitting applications and presenting at poster and concurrent sessions, attending and presenting at JCEP, and volunteering at annual sessions.

NEAFCS needs national officers who are committed to handling the duties of their offices as professionals. Cindy is an organized, dependable person who is detailed and thorough in completing responsibilities in a stellar manner. She would apply her top signature strength, which is love of learning, to bring added value to the position.

Having been on the national board in various capacities, I know the time commitment and dedication required. As Cindy's supervisor, I am confident she possesses the right mix of NEAFCS experience and people skills to fulfill the role of central region director. She has my support and assistance in devoting the time needed.

Sincerely,



Donna K. Donald

Human Sciences Specialist, Field Operations  
Past Central Region Director and National President



