

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



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Background

I bring nearly 20 years of grants management experience in healthcare and nonprofit settings, focused on strengthening organizational capacity, ensuring compliance, and advancing mission-driven outcomes. I currently serve as director of rural health initiatives at a state hospital association, overseeing the 501(c)(3) nonprofit arm, managing a diverse portfolio of federal, state and foundation grants, supervising staff, and aligning initiatives with organizational priorities. Previously, I worked for the two largest health systems in South Dakota, leading grant teams and supporting complex healthcare grants across the full lifecycle. I hold an MBA, am completing a doctorate in leadership, and am a Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS). These experiences have strengthened my focus on ethical leadership, accountability, and sustainable organizational practices. I am passionate about advancing the grants profession and supporting practitioners through strong governance and strategic leadership within NGMA.

Candidate Profile: Nonprofit

I am most aligned with this profile based on my nearly 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, where my entire grants management career has been rooted. I have worked exclusively within nonprofit healthcare and association environments, managing a wide range of federal, state, pass-through and private foundation grants while leading grants teams and supporting mission-driven organizations. Throughout my career, I have provided strategic oversight across the full grants lifecycle and have played an active role in strategic planning to ensure grant-funded initiatives align with organizational priorities and long-term sustainability. My leadership approach emphasizes trust, collaboration, accountability, and integrity, particularly in complex environments that require balancing compliance, innovation, and stakeholder relationships. This background positions me well to represent nonprofit and public-serving organizations and to contribute meaningfully to NGMA's Board through both technical expertise and values-driven leadership.

Board Experience

In my current role, I regularly report to a nonprofit board of directors and actively engage in board governance processes. I prepare and present comprehensive updates at board meetings, including overviews of the grant portfolio, program accomplishments, emerging challenges, strategic initiatives, and budget performance. These presentations are designed to support informed decision-making and align grant-funded work with the organization's mission and strategic priorities. In addition, I have served as the inaugural chair of NGMA's Certification Council. In this governance role, I helped guide the development and review of the CGMS Candidate Handbook and supported the application process for accreditation, ensuring alignment with industry standards and best practices. I continue to serve as a member of the Certification Council, contributing to ongoing oversight, policy refinement, and continuous improvement efforts. Together, these experiences have strengthened my understanding of nonprofit governance, fiduciary responsibility, and the importance of effective collaboration between staff leadership and governing bodies.

NGMA Experience/Volunteering

As detailed above, I served as the inaugural chairperson of the NGMA Certification Council, and continue to serve as a Council member, where I helped guide the development and review of processes to support accreditation. Earlier in my career, I was a presenter at the NGMA Annual Grants Training, sharing insights and best practices with the broader grants management community. These experiences have allowed me to engage deeply with NGMA's mission and collaborate with colleagues across the nonprofit grant management field.

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Goal of NGMA's Strategic Framework That Most Resonates with Me

The goal that resonates most with me is supporting members in navigating changes in federal compliance to reduce confusion and improve fund administration. With executive orders, budget adjustments, and updates to the Uniform Grant Guidance, providing practical guidance and resources is essential. Helping grant professionals succeed is foundational to the association's mission and should be the cornerstone of all other initiatives.

Top Two Challenges Over the Next 3-5 Years for the Profession

Two significant challenges are technology integration and workforce development. First, technology is increasingly being incorporated into grants management, from application submission to post-award reporting and progress monitoring. While these tools can improve efficiency and accuracy, a key challenge will be integrating technology in a way that enhances, rather than replaces, the personal and relationship-driven aspects of grant management, avoiding a purely "check-the-box" approach. Second, workforce development and sustaining expertise remain critical. As compliance requirements, reporting standards, and federal guidance continue to evolve, organizations will need highly skilled professionals capable of navigating complex funding landscapes. Recruiting, training, and retaining staff with both technical knowledge and strategic, relationship-focused skills will be essential. Investing in professional development, mentorship, and succession planning will ensure that organizations can maintain compliance, achieve program outcomes, and strengthen the long-term capacity of the grants management field.