

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



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Senior Director - Post Award
Dallas College

Background

My career is rooted in over two decades of dedicated service across the education and government sectors, specifically focused on strengthening grant administration and program compliance. I held advanced roles in K-12, a state agency and now, the higher education sector that underpins my expertise. My career path has been defined by creating robust systems to manage complex federal, state, and private funding streams. I have progressed from operational roles, where I managed the day-to-day fiscal integrity of grants, to strategic leadership positions where I design and implement institution-wide compliance frameworks. My passion lies in translating dense regulatory requirements into clear, practical processes that empower grant teams to utilize funds effectively while maintaining audit readiness.

Candidate Profile: Education

My professional history provides a rare perspective, having served on both sides of the grants compliance relationship, which directly aligns with NGMA candidate profile 3: Local Government, Nonprofit, Education Sector.

Funder and Compliance Oversight Perspective (LDOE): For the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), I served as a grant administrator, responsible for reviewing and approving major federal funding applications, including Title I and IDEA grants, for more than 72 school districts. This experience gave me a deep understanding of:

- the regulatory intent behind federal funding.
- the critical points of failure at the state and local levels during application and allocation.
- the need for compliance rigor from a pass-through entity's standpoint.

Post-Award Strategic Perspective (Dallas College): In my subsequent role as a post-award senior director at Dallas College, I moved to the grant compliance oversight on the grantee side. Here, I led the strategic implementation of grant accountability and grant monitoring frameworks, requiring me to:

- balance institutional mission with the practical demands of fiscal and program compliance; and
- manage the compliance oversight of a large, diverse grant portfolio.

This dual experience, from approving critical federal funding as a state administrator to executing and safeguarding that funding as a senior leader, allows me to offer the NGMA Board a 360-degree view of the grants lifecycle, ensuring strategic decisions reflect the realities faced by both grantors and grantees in the education sector.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Board Experience

I possess experience working within complex government governance structures, providing high-level counsel and driving policy implementation across a wide operational scope. My experience includes direct involvement in two key governance functions:

1. **State-Level Policy and Advisory Leadership (LDOE):** In my roles as a federal programs supervisor and grant administrator at LDOE, I served as a key advisor to the division director and led major federal program initiatives. This responsibility required a deep understanding of governance, including:
 - **Policy planning and development:** I directly guided the development and implementation of federal policies, state guidance, and tools designed to support Louisiana school systems and charter organizations.
 - **Regulatory expertise:** I was skilled in analyzing, interpreting, and applying federal laws and regulations (including NCLB and related policies for disadvantaged youth) and state/board of education policies to ensure program compliance and effectiveness.
 - **Strategic restructuring:** As a federal programs supervisor, I reported to the division director and restructured federal program teams to reduce the administrative policy burden on school systems while simultaneously increasing compliance rigor.
 - **Stakeholder representation:** I represented the LDOE director in meetings with both internal and external stakeholders, facilitating high-level meetings essential for accomplishing interagency initiatives.
2. **National governance and content steering (NGMA Task Force):** As a current member of NGMA's Ethics Educational Content Development Task Force, I participate directly in an official governance body responsible for shaping a foundational area of NGMA's educational services. This role requires me to:
 - **Contribute subject matter expertise** to align content with NGMA's strategic goals and industry needs.
 - **Engage in consensus-driven deliberation** on content scope, format, and delivery methods.

Collectively, these experiences demonstrate my ability to navigate the demands of governance, interpret complex policy, and drive compliance strategy across large, diverse organizational networks.

NGMA Experience/Volunteering

I have demonstrated my commitment to the NGMA community through consistent engagement at both the national speaking and committee levels:

- **National speaker (2025 Annual Grant Training):** I was a co-presenter on the Dallas College Grant Monitoring Framework. This session focused on proactive compliance strategies, providing attendees with a detailed institutional model for continuous audit readiness.
- **Committee volunteer (Ethics Task Force):** I am a member of the NGMA's Ethics Educational Content Development Task Force. I have directly contributed my expertise to:
 - **Designing and creating scenario-based learning and case studies** that directly address complex ethical challenges in grants management.
 - **Developing engaging eLearning modules and webinars** that translate technical ethics regulations into accessible, actionable training.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

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

Strategic Goal #2: "NGMA will continue to support the overall level of competency of grants management professionals by offering diversified, affordable educational and online resources targeted to their career level and sector." This goal is central to my service on the Ethics Educational Content Development Task Force. I firmly believe that the most effective way NGMA can support its members is by not just making compliance information available, but by making it easily digestible and actionable. My direct contribution (creating scenario-based learning, case studies, and real-world applications) is a testament to this commitment. By delivering practical, segmented, and affordable resources, we empower professionals at every stage of their career to confidently navigate grant challenges, thus elevating the entire profession.

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

Navigating grant volatility and regulatory shifts and the potential increased rigor in state-level oversight. We must continually navigate the ever-changing volatile landscape of federal grants and recover from current administrations' grant-making decisions. This includes managing fluctuating priority areas, sudden shifts in reporting requirements, and the necessity of aligning existing systems with new federal guidance. Grants professionals also face an expanded role of states in grant administration, coupled with an increase in rigor of compliance oversight. As states become both pass-through entities and primary regulators, the compliance ecosystem grows more complex, requiring grant professionals to manage several rules and a higher level of scrutiny from multiple governmental layers.