



Denise Robson

Biography

I grew up in a small Minnesota community, pursued my undergraduate studies in Eau Claire and graduate studies in Lincoln, Nebraska. I dedicated 30 years to teaching in the Economics Department at UW-O, retiring in January 2024. I currently live in a historic 1904 Oshkosh home with my husband, Sean, and Great Dane, Chaucer. I also serve as the treasurer for the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) Chapter BA. I am a strong advocate for expanding educational access and am committed to creating opportunities for all.

What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?

I have spent over 30 years striving to increase economic literacy. Working with the Co-op will give me an opportunity to continue that effort in a more targeted fashion. I work with and analyze data, which is vital to the success of any operation. My background in economics will be useful in guiding the Co-op board in its advisory capacity. Additionally, being retired I have the time and flexibility to serve the Co-op.

What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op?

I would like to see the Co-op continue to be a place for the community to not only go shopping, but also to meet and greet other community members, whether it is for food or one of the many educational opportunities provided by the Co-op. I feel it is important to source locally, when possible, and that we are able to provide for the basic needs of the community at reasonable prices. Having the Co-op be the "go to" place would be great.

Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh Community?

I believe every community should have access to the products and services that a Co-op provides. It provides an alternative to the larger national chains. It is able to quickly adjust to the changing needs of the community. It provides a good source of employment, where employees are part of the "family." The Co-op also contributes to the community by providing markets for local suppliers, which in turn helps the local economy to grow.

Why cooperatives?

Cooperatives gives people a sense of ownership. When people have skin in the game they are more likely to work for its success. Our co-op is a nice size. It is able to provide the amenities desired by the members, while also providing a small town shopping experience where "everybody knows your name." While you can have this feeling at other stores, there is something about having the shared values that come from ownership.

Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you.

Jeremiah and his team have done a good job of turning the Co-op around after a bumpy start .I would like to see these efforts continue and expand.

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oshkoshfoodcoop.com

a member-owned community grocery store

