

Name: Belynda Pinkston

### A brief biography (150 words or less):

I have been an educator for over 30 years. I am originally from Orlando, FI and have lived in Oshkosh for nearly 4 years. I have strived to give back to my community by being involved in community organizations such as currently serving as a member of the Oshkosh Food Co-op. I was honored to be asked to serve as a temporary Board Member and am now seeking to serve in my own right.

# What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board? (1-2 paragraphs)

My experience as an educator as well as my experience as a Human
Resources Director. I know the value of working as a member of a team as
well as striving to make a positive impact within the community. I have had an
opportunity to serve on the Board to fill a vacancy and am now seeking to be elected to the Board in my own right.



My dream for the Co-op is for it to become a vibrant, integral part of the Oshkosh Community and a place where all members of the community feel welcomed and are viewed as a valued member of the Oshkosh Food Co-op. I also wish to have an opportunity to continue working with the other Board Members to ensure that the Food Coop successfully serves as a viable shopping choice for all members of the Oshkosh Community.

## Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh Community? (1-2 paragraphs)

Because ideally it should again be an integral part of the community that reflects the diversity of the community and serves as a place where all members of the community feel welcomed and a part of the co-op community as vested owners.

Having served on the Board, I now have a better understanding of what the Food Co-op currently means to the community as well as the potential impact that it will have in the future. I seek the opportunity to continue to be a part of the important work of striving to ensure the success of the Food Co-op.

#### Why cooperatives? (1-2 paragraphs)

Cooperatives are important because they represent a partnership between a food cooperative and the community that it serves. It offers community members an opportunity to have access to fresh, healthy food choices for purchase. It also affords local food growers an opportunity to have a market for their harvest, and community members are actually vested owners in the success and viability of the food cooperative.

### **CONTINUED BELOW**

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Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you. (1-2 paragraphs)

By serving on the Board, I have gleaned a better understanding of the significance of the Food Coop and the work that it will take to ensure its success. I seek the opportunity to work with the other Board Members to achieve this goal. I pledge to be an active member and to be involved in the important work that lies ahead.

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