



WHAT IS **CLS** COOPERATIVE LEADERS & SCHOLARS?

The CLS program builds capacity and support networks for new and emerging co-op leaders and scholars. This community empowers and trains its members to build a more inclusive economy in North America, together.

CLS achieves the following:

- ▲ Attracts, engages, and retains talent
- ▲ Deepens and broadens knowledge of cooperatives and provides training for the next generation of leaders
- ▲ Brings together cooperators from every sector to foster cross-sectoral relationships, networks, and collaboration early in their careers

WHO IS **ELIGIBLE?**

Applicants must qualify under one of the three categories and reside in North America:

- ▲ Emerging cooperators (ages 18 - 35) pursuing a career in or working with cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance
- ▲ Individuals new to cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance with less than 5 years of experience
- ▲ Post secondary students of any age with an interest in cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance



Cooperative
Leaders &
Scholars
A Project of CDF and NCBA CLUSA

WHY
GET

INVOLVED?

"Being a part of the CLS cohort has **broadened my understanding** of the international history of cooperatives and **helped me to make connections** with likeminded individuals who are doing amazing work **promoting democracy, equity, and workers' rights** today."

"Participating in the 2022 cohort ... **turbocharged my awareness of a national cooperative movement** and the pivotal role it has been playing for decades in our society, unbeknownst to the average person. The value of CLS also extended to providing me with the **unique opportunity to spend lots of time with and get to know personally current and up-and-coming leaders in the cooperative movement from across the nation.**"

"This experience has **expanded my cooperative horizon**. Serving on my co-op's board of directors, I now have a **better sense of where my cooperative fits within the broader cooperative movement**. I have made amazing connections with the cohort and see myself **continuing to collaborate and overlap with CLS folks in the years to come**. This program has instilled in me the value that cooperatives play in the alternative economy and has **influenced me to continue to work in the cooperative space five years from now.**"

Every
Journey
Needs a
Next Step

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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