



**2018 Board of Directors Nomination Attestation**

I am requesting to be nominated to serve as a Director on NGMA's Board of Directors for a term beginning May 1, 2018.

Please check the boxes below that you can attest to:

- I understand that if I do not meet the minimum criteria established for nominees or I do not submit the requested materials about my qualifications **on or prior to Wednesday, January 31, 2018**, I will not be included on the slate of candidates.
- I understand that being accepted as a nominee does not guarantee being elected as a Director.
- I understand that the election will be based on a simple majority vote of the membership.
- I understand that the responses on the 2018 Board Nomination Application will be shared on NGMA's website.
- I understand that if I am not elected for a term beginning in 2018, I am eligible to be re-nominated for the 2019 election.

By signing below, I certify that everything checked above is true and accurate.

Maria Howeth

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Howeth", is written over a horizontal line.

Name (print)

Signature

Email this signed attestation form and the completed application below to Shelly Slebrch at [shelly@ngma.org](mailto:shelly@ngma.org), no later than COB, January 31, 2018.



**2018 Board of Directors Nomination Application**

**NAME:** Maria Howeth

**ORGANIZATION:** The Chickasaw Nation

**TITLE:** Director of Project Support

**ADDRESS:** 231 Seabrook Rd / Ada, OK 74820

**PHONE:** (580) 310-7992

**EMAIL:** maria.howeth@chickasaw.net

**1) Brief background statement, including education, training, and career path.**

*I began my grant journey in 2008 when I came to the Chickasaw Nation. I earned my BS in Business Administration from East Central University in Ada, OK and my Master's in Business Administration from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, OK. I hold a current CGMS and have completed two levels of leadership training through the Chickasaw Nation Leadership Academy, where I also became a Certified Public Speaker. In March 2016 I was appointed as Director of Project Support for the Division of Community Services within the Chickasaw Nation.*

**2) Current professional position and description of grant-related duties.**

*As the Director of Project Support, I oversee an area responsible for post award management. We act as liaisons and integrity specialists for our internal divisions (programmatic, financial, legal, etc.) who are a part of the grant team supporting the grant programs. We also have a unique government to government scenario with most of our grants because we are a Native American Tribal Government, which requires a unique skill set when interpreting grants and how they relate to the tribal mission and sovereignty. Therefore, we also act as liaison between the project director and the federal or state agency when needed. We assist with regulation questions, post-award revisions, compliance reviews, and over-all support to ensure the maximum potential of the grant awards. My team also helps the pre-award area with information needed for new and continuing applications and the reporting team with information needed to stay compliant.*

**3) A statement of your vision/direction for NGMA and how you see us achieving this.**

*NGMA is a leader in grants management. I believe there were some excellent additions to the association within the past two to three years with the implementation of chapters and the new networking site. There is more to be done. I see more tribal resources being offered within NGMA to assist our tribal grantees. More education for how the tribal government and the federal or state government can work together to help support the mission of the Native American people and their tribes as a whole.*



4) Please describe what governance skill sets you will bring to the NGMA Board (check and describe all that apply).

**Financial Management**

*For the past 10 years I have assisted project directors with their budgets for over fifty grants and many tribal budgets. Making sure expenditures are in line with the project and are allowable.*

**Financial Planning and Budgeting**

*Assist with budgeting and planning for grant projects. As a tribal government, we not only have to adhere to the grant regulations, we also have to make sure the project fits within our mission and our programs.*

**Education and Training**

*As a tribal member, working on grants within a tribal government, I help to educate our program officials when needed on tribal laws and regulations. Our area also helps to identify when training is needed for grant programs and we help facilitate or sponsor those trainings.*

**Professional Certification and Credentialing**

**Public Affairs and Marketing**

**Other (please describe)**

*As described above, being a tribal government creates a unique relationship with the federal/state agencies we work with. We often have to educate them and help our internal personnel understand how some agency's terms and conditions must be processed carefully as not to put our sovereignty in jeopardy.*

5) Describe what additional skills/knowledge/strength you will bring to the NGMA Board.

*I am inherently a people person. I want everyone to know the same information and be well educated in their task and grant knowledge overall. I believe with education and understanding, we are able to perform at the highest level possible to achieve the highest outcomes for the funding we are awarded. I believe being able to connect with people and support them in their work is crucial to the success of the program, whether that be the grant program or the overall grants office as a whole. Many grantees do not have large offices full of grant professionals, that's where NGMA comes in to fill in the gap and provide that support.*

6) Given resource restraints, what suggestions would you make to move NGMA forward?

*Put the best people in place who possess the best skill sets. It takes a diverse group of people to be successful as a whole. Together, we are stronger and achieve better results.*

7) What is your availability and how much time can you devote to NGMA?

*The posted required times for this position are acceptable and will have minimal interference in my current position. I currently help with the education committee and it has not been a burden.*

8) Please address the criteria for candidates, as presented in the Call for Nominations by checking any appropriate boxes as they pertain to you and answering any question as you deem appropriate:

Are you currently a member in good standing?

Have you been a member in good standing for at least the past two full years?

Have you demonstrated previous involvement in NGMA (involvement can include but is not limited to: served on the NGMA Board, serving on a committee, presenting for NGMA, etc.)?

Do you agree to sign and uphold the NGMA Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement?

Will you uphold the NGMA Bylaws?



- Do you have the time and energy to actively contribute to the organization, including participation in meetings?
- Are you able to utilize email and other electronic communications to actively participate in the administration and operation of the organization?
- If you did not check one of the boxes above, please explain why.

Email the signed attestation form and the completed application to Shelly Slebrch at [shelly@ngma.org](mailto:shelly@ngma.org), no later than COB, January 31, 2018.