

**Stephanie Sims**  
**Board Questionnaire Responses**

**A. Please describe your reason for wanting to serve on the Board for the Co-op.**

I want to play a role in creating a more sustainable food system for Gainesville. My experience working with sustainability has opened my eyes to the great opportunity and ability to reach new audiences through food. I believe that my educational background in biological engineering and business administration provide me a suite of skills to help the co-op be successful. I'm excited about the potential for the co-op to give back to the community and be a financially viable business model, demonstrating that we can do better than the status quo.

**B. What special skills or experience do you have that will be a unique service to the Co-op?**

I've always been intrigued by the consumer experience- I worked retail for seven years through college and continue to follow advances in business around sustainability. I work with, and am interested in metrics surrounding both social and environmental sustainability, and I want to be sure that the co-op "walks the talk" through its development and operations. I have experience through the UF Office of Sustainability with planning events, behavior change campaigns, managing our intern program, strategic planning and implementation. I really enjoy getting to know new people and learning about opportunities to improve the community. I'm willing to contribute to the co-op in any way needed, from manual labor on member work-days to financial analysis, marketing, and fundraising.

**C. The Board will make decisions based upon consensus. How do you think you will deal with a potential disagreement regarding a board decision?**

From the time I was born into a family of five children, life has been about finding consensus. My experience working with diverse stakeholders in the university setting, as well as in my experience in community organizing have taught me to listen to divergent opinions and to try to find compromise. I've found that in many cases people just want to be heard. I will be available to listen to all member concerns and serve as advocate for members on the board. I believe everyone on the board should contribute opinions and reasoning behind their opinions, so that together we can fully evaluate all opportunities and find the best solutions.