

URMIA Election Candidate 2025

Individual Profile			
Name:	Susie Johnson	Position:	President-Elect
Title:	Risk Management Director	Organization:	Iowa State University
Designations:	MS, ARM-E	Years in Higher Ed RM:	17 years
Gender:	Female	Race:	White/Caucasian/Euro-American (non-Hispanic)
Organization Profile			
Membership category:	Institutional Tier 6	Student FTE of institution:	30,432
Type of institution	Public, Four-Year Institution, Land Grant Institution, Research Institution	Two-year institution:	No



What leadership skills and talents make you a good candidate?

As part of a personal growth exercise years ago, I was prompted to create a life motto. After considerable thought, I determined that “for me, life is all about relationships and experiences.” My appreciation for the people who surround me and the various ways we interact with one another would make me a conscientious leader for URMIA. I have a strong commitment to ethics and high expectations of others. I believe that an organization’s performance is positively correlated with its culture. When individuals and groups feel respected and engaged by their organization, they often, in turn, engage respectfully and impactfully on behalf of their organization. I have witnessed this in URMIA since I joined in 2009, and I would do my best to support URMIA’s long-term well-being and effectiveness.

I am an advocate for improving policies and procedures – not simply for the sake of change, but because the world is changing quickly and there are often new, different, and more effective or efficient ways of accomplishing our goals. With other members of the URMIA board and staff, I would seek clarity in our long-term objectives and collaboratively determine ways we might best achieve them. This involves identifying clear next steps for action as well as articulating a long-ranging vision.

What would you bring to the board (e.g., thought leadership, talent, skillset, ability, etc.)?

I bring to this board a 15+ year history of URMIA engagement. At the first annual conference I attended, I got goosebumps hearing the honors and awards presented. The deep respect that members had for one another was readily apparent, and I could sense how special it was to be part of this wise, supportive, and welcoming community. I do not take for granted what a privilege it is to serve in a leadership role, and in the presidential succession, I would listen, seek to understand, communicate, collaborate, and take action when needed.

One thing I’m especially effective at – in my personal life and my professional life – is bringing others together. I am the friend who introduces two people from different areas of my life and then watches their friendship grow. At inter-departmental meetings on my campus, as well as at URMIA annual conference sessions, I look for opportunities to connect colleagues who can learn from one another. At Iowa State, I lead a risk management team that is well-respected across campus and is often sought out as the place to go for answers and assistance. I believe we have gained this positive reputation because my team knows I will be honest with them, support them, and we all can expect high-quality work from one another. As an URMIA officer, I would feel confident in my ability to be aware of the strengths and unique abilities and offerings of members, volunteers and staff members and find ways to coordinate our support of URMIA’s organizational needs and strategies.