

Candidate's Information:

First and Last Name: **Mindy Lyle**
School Name: **Acorn High School**
State **Arkansas**

Years of experience as a teacher: 17

Years of experience as an FCCLA Adviser: 8

1. What can the candidate contribute to the National Board of Directors as an FCCLA adviser in these categories? (30)

- **Knowledge of the Organization**
- **Career and Technical Student Organizations**
- **Leadership**
- **Program Development**
- **Administration**
- **Finance**
- **Personnel Management**
- **Non-Profit Organization Management**
- **Media and Marketing**
- **Resource Development and Fundraising**
- **Work in Public Policy Development**

I bring a practical perspective, proven chapter growth strategies, and a strong commitment to expanding opportunities for students and advisers nationwide. As an active FCCLA adviser in a small rural district, I understand both the challenges and possibilities schools face regardless of size or funding level. I have built a thriving chapter by increasing membership from fewer than 15 students to nearly 50 members, demonstrating my ability to recruit, engage, and retain student members through relevant programming and strong school-community relationships.

Knowledge of the Organization: I advise a chapter that attains Arkansas Gold STAR Chapter each year and consistently complete region and state projects at the platinum level. This year, we have achieved the National Ultimate Chapter Award. This reflects my deep understanding of FCCLA's mission, programs, competitive events, chapter development process, and the role FCCLA plays in student leadership and career readiness.

Career and Technical Student Organizations: As a Career Development teacher, I actively help students explore pathways and identify which CTSO best aligns with their interests, strengths, and goals. Although I am a Culinary Arts teacher at heart, I am a passionate advocate for ALL CTE programs and understand how CTSOs strengthen classroom instruction through experiential learning and leadership development.

Leadership: I lead by example through servant leadership, high expectations, and a student-centered mindset. I believe in empowering student officers to lead, while providing the guidance and structure needed for success. My chapter's growth and accomplishments reflect a culture of leadership development.

Program Development: I have successfully developed innovative programs that increase participation, strengthen community partnerships, and connect FCCLA initiatives to real student needs. I understand how to build sustainable chapter systems that continue to grow year after year.

Administration: Managing a successful chapter requires organization, compliance, event planning, communication, and strategic decision-making. I bring strong administrative skills developed through coordinating chapter operations, travel, events, deadlines, and school partnerships.

Finance: Our chapter raises 100% of its operating funds for travel, events, and service projects. Through careful budgeting, planning, and stewardship, I have demonstrated the ability to manage resources responsibly and maximize opportunities for students.

Personnel Management: As a business co-owner for many years, I have firsthand experience leading teams, supervising personnel, solving problems, and maintaining accountability. These skills translate directly to collaborative board service.

Non-Profit Organization Management: FCCLA's mission-driven work requires strategic planning, relationship building, governance awareness, and sustainable growth. My experience building programs, engaging stakeholders, and managing resources aligns closely with non-profit leadership principles. I have had the privilege of serving on the board of directors for Arkansas ACTE and Arkansas AATFCS.

Media and Marketing: My chapter maintains a strong public presence through regular local newspaper features and monthly school social media recognition. I understand the importance of storytelling, branding, and celebrating success to grow support for FCCLA.

Resource Development and Fundraising: I have extensive experience creating fundraising plans, engaging sponsors, and building community support systems that directly benefit students. I know how to turn local relationships into meaningful opportunities.

Work in Public Policy Development: I am a committed advocate for CTE, Family and Consumer Sciences, and student leadership organizations. I understand the importance of policies that support career readiness, workforce development, and equitable student access to leadership opportunities. I have had the opportunity to advocate for CTE both locally and at a state & national level with ACTE and FCCLA on multiple occasions. I understand the importance of having open and honest conversations regularly with our elected officials.

If elected, I would bring innovation, rural school perspective, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring every adviser and student sees FCCLA as a place where they can belong, lead, and succeed.

2. What experiences does the adviser have in developing a local chapter program of work? What projects and programs has the adviser been facilitating at the local level? (15)

I have extensive experience developing and sustaining a meaningful local chapter Program of Work that reflects both FCCLA's mission and the specific needs of our school and community. I believe an effective Program of Work should be student-led, service-centered, and designed to create measurable impact. Over the past eight years, I have worked alongside student leaders to build annual goals, plan initiatives, organize events, and evaluate outcomes so our chapter remains active, relevant, and growth-oriented each year.

A major focus of our Program of Work has been community service and partnership development. Our chapter collaborates with local nonprofits annually to complete large-scale service projects that engage students, families, businesses, and community members. This year, our signature project was Bags of Hope, supporting Ouachita Children's Coalition and The Call. Through this initiative, our chapter collected and assembled essential items to support children and families in crisis. Last year, we partnered with Fresh Start Pregnancy Center, where members logged more than 100 service hours supporting their mission. These are only two examples of many impactful projects our chapter has completed over the last eight years.

In addition to community outreach, we prioritize school-based service initiatives that directly support our own students. Our chapter manages the school hygiene and clothing closet, ensuring students have access to basic necessities with dignity and care. We also organize the annual Sorrow Christmas Project, one of our most meaningful traditions. This year, our chapter was able to provide a full Christmas for 32 Acorn students and their families. These efforts teach members compassion, organization, teamwork, and the importance of serving those closest to them.

Beyond chapter programming, I have also facilitated long-term growth opportunities for students through program development. Over the last eight years, I successfully wrote and secured startup grants for two new career pathways in our district: the Pre-Educator program and the Culinary Arts program. These initiatives expanded opportunities for students, strengthened career readiness, and created natural connections to FCCLA leadership and competition opportunities.

Through these experiences, I have developed strong skills in strategic planning, project management, partnership building, grant writing, student leadership development, and sustainable chapter growth. Most importantly, I have learned how to create a Program of Work that moves beyond activities and becomes a vehicle for real change in students, schools, and communities.

3. What experiences does the adviser have in regional, state, or national events and programs? (20)

I have extensive experience supporting FCCLA students and programs at the regional, state, and national levels, and I have made it a priority to ensure students from a small rural school have access to the same high-level opportunities as any chapter in the nation. Over the past eight years as an adviser, I have consistently helped lead students to competitive success, leadership development, and active participation in FCCLA conferences and initiatives.

Each year, multiple students from our chapter advance through STAR Events competition to the region, state and national levels, demonstrating our commitment to excellence, preparation, and student growth. These experiences have allowed me to mentor students through project development, presentation skills, professionalism, and leadership under pressure.

Leadership development has also been a major focus of my advising experience. I have helped students successfully earn leadership roles beyond the local chapter, including 10 regional officers, 3 state officers, and 1 national officer candidate. Guiding students through campaign preparation, speeches, interviews, and service in office has given me valuable experience in cultivating student leaders who represent FCCLA with confidence and integrity.

Our chapter is also highly engaged in statewide programs and recognition initiatives. We complete the Arkansas state service project and Membership Madness campaign each year at the platinum level. This year, our chapter placed #2 in the state for Membership Madness, reflecting our strong student engagement and recruitment efforts. We are recognized annually as a Gold STAR Chapter, demonstrating consistent excellence in chapter planning, leadership, and impact.

This year, we also achieved the prestigious National Ultimate Chapter Award, a reflection of sustained success in chapter development, membership growth, service, and leadership. Earning this recognition shows that our work aligns with the highest standards of FCCLA excellence.

In addition, we actively participate in all levels of FCCLA conferences, including regional, state, and national meetings. Regular attendance at these events keeps our chapter connected to new ideas, leadership training, networking opportunities, and the broader mission of FCCLA.

These experiences have prepared me to contribute to FCCLA at a higher level because I understand how to move students from local involvement to state and national impact. I know how to build programs that develop leaders, sustain achievement, and ensure students see FCCLA as a pathway to lifelong success.

4. What experiences does the candidate have on any community Board/or community involvement or other leadership opportunities working with organized Boards of Directors? (10)

I bring extensive experience serving on professional, nonprofit, and educational boards, with a strong understanding of governance, strategic planning, policy development, and collaborative leadership. My service on multiple state organizations has prepared me to contribute effectively to a national board setting while keeping the needs of advisers, students, and stakeholders at the center of decision-making.

Since 2021, I have served on the Arkansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (AATFCS) Board. My service began as Bylaws Chair, where I was responsible for reviewing governance documents, ensuring policy alignment, and supporting organizational structure. Last year, I served as President, leading board initiatives, facilitating meetings, supporting members, and helping guide the organization's strategic direction. I currently continue that service as Past President, providing continuity, mentorship, and institutional knowledge to current leadership.

I also served on the Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Board from 2021–2025. My board service included first serving as the Family and Consumer Sciences Bylaws Chair, followed by two years on the Executive Board as the Family and Consumer Sciences representative. In those roles, I advocated for FACS educators, contributed to statewide CTE initiatives, and worked collaboratively with leaders across multiple career pathways.

National Board of Directors Local Adviser Representative Application

From 2021–2023, I served on the Arkansas FCCLA Foundation Board, where I supported efforts related to fundraising, student opportunities, and strengthening long-term resources for FCCLA members and chapters across the state. This experience deepened my understanding of nonprofit board operations, donor stewardship, and sustainable program support.

My leadership within FCCLA also includes service on the Arkansas FCCLA Executive Council during the 2019–2020, 2021–2022, and 2024–2025 terms. Serving on Executive Council provided experience in statewide planning, adviser support, program implementation, and strategic leadership for the organization.

Currently, I serve as one of two FCCLA Region V Coordinators/STAR Coordinators, where I help organize regional events, coordinate competitive events logistics, support advisers, and ensure students have meaningful leadership and competition experiences. This role requires communication, event management, policy implementation, and collaborative problem-solving. Across all of these leadership roles, I have gained valuable experience in board governance, bylaws, finance oversight, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, committee leadership, and mission-driven decision-making. Most importantly, I understand how effective boards operate—with professionalism, vision, accountability, and a commitment to serving others.

5. What experiences does the candidate have in their FCCLA State Association or state events? (10)

As mentioned in previous answers, I have strong experience within my FCCLA State Association through leadership service, chapter achievement, student development, and statewide advocacy. Our chapter consistently participates in state programs each year, earning platinum level recognition in the state projects. We are also an annual Gold STAR Chapter.

I have guided students to success in STAR Events with multiple state qualifiers each year and national competitors in six of my eight years as an adviser. I have also mentored students who have gone on to serve as regional officers and state officers.

My personal leadership experience includes serving on the Arkansas FCCLA Executive Council, the Arkansas FCCLA Foundation Board, and currently as one of two Region V Coordinators/STAR Coordinators. I also volunteer in multiple areas at our state conference each year. These roles have provided experience in event planning, adviser support, governance, and statewide program implementation.

I have provided professional development for teachers at the region & state level for FCCLA and Arkansas Family Consumer Sciences on multiple occasions over the last eight years.

In addition, I have advocated for Career and Technical Education at the state level for multiple years and have worked closely with our state CTE director and state FCCLA adviser to strengthen opportunities for students and advisers across Arkansas. These experiences have given me a strong understanding of state association leadership, collaboration, and the importance of advancing FCCLA's mission statewide.

6. List professional association memberships and include any offices held in these associations. (5)

Arkansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (AATFCS) – Current Member

- Bylaws Chair
- President
- Current Past President

Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education – Current Member

- Family and Consumer Sciences Bylaws Chair
- Executive Board Member, Family and Consumer Sciences Representative

National Association for Career and Technical Education – Current Member

National Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Science Teachers – Current Member

Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Kappa-Member since 2022

7. Describe the candidate's involvement as a teacher; include programs and implementation at the local level as well as any state involvement in developing programs, etc. (10)

As a teacher, I am deeply committed to creating innovative, student-centered programs that prepare learners for college, careers, leadership, and life. My involvement goes beyond daily instruction and focuses on building opportunities that expand what students in a small rural district can access. Through strategic planning, grant writing, curriculum development, and community partnerships, I have worked to ensure students receive high-quality Career and Technical Education experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world success.

At the local level, one of my most significant contributions has been launching two new programs of study in my classroom: Culinary Arts and Pre-Educator. I identified student interest and workforce needs, then developed and implemented these pathways to provide meaningful career exploration and skill development opportunities. These programs required planning curriculum, securing resources, aligning standards, promoting enrollment, and creating hands-on learning experiences that keep students engaged while building employability skills. I also teach the PreEducator courses as an adjunct instructor for University of Arkansas Rich Mountain and my students receive concurrent credit.

The Culinary Arts program gives students access to industry-relevant training in food safety, nutrition, culinary techniques, customer service, and hospitality skills. Students also have opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications, participate in leadership development through FCCLA, and apply learning through labs, competitions, and service projects.

The Pre-Educator program was created to support students interested in teaching and child development careers. Through this pathway, students explore instructional strategies, classroom management, lesson planning, child development, and observation experiences that help them determine if education is the right career fit. This program has opened new doors for students who want to remain in their communities and serve future generations as educators.

In addition to classroom program development, I have been actively involved at the state level in supporting Career and Technical Education and student leadership opportunities. I have advocated for CTE programs across Arkansas and worked closely with our state CTE director and state FCCLA adviser to strengthen opportunities for students and advisers. My leadership service through professional organizations and statewide boards has also allowed me to contribute to discussions on program quality, educator support, and student success. I also serve on the CTE Collaborative team at the DeQueen/Mena Educational Coop as the representative for Ouachita River School District. I am basically the CTE liaison between the coop and our district.

Overall, my work as a teacher reflects a commitment to innovation, growth, and service. I believe educators should not only teach existing programs but also build new pathways that meet the changing needs of students, schools, and communities.



ACORN TIGERS

Acorn High School

Dewayne Taylor, Principal
Tammy Young, Counselor

143 Polk Road 96
Mena, AR 71953
Phone: 479-394-5544
Fax: 479-394-1041



ACORN TIGERS

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dewayne Taylor, and I am proud to offer my letter of recommendation for Mindy Lyle. I am Mrs. Lyle's principal at Acorn High School for the past 7 years and she has done an outstanding job for me as a classroom teacher.

During my working relationship with Mrs. Lyle, I have experienced a teacher who has compassion for her job, comes to work on time, has a good working relationship with her colleagues, her students and other school personnel. Mrs. Lyle carries herself in a very professional manner and is always very polite and respectful to myself. Mrs. Lyle gives of her time to the students she serves both before and after school in various programs. Mrs. Lyle oversees the day to day activities of our high school FCCLA program and directs the proceedings of that program.

I would recommend Mrs. Mindy Lyle for any position/honor that she is nominated for. If you have any questions or requests of me, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Dewayne Taylor
Acorn High School Principal
479-394-5544
dtaylor@orsd.k12.ar.us



To Whom it May Concern,

It is my privilege to offer my strong support for Mindy Lyle as a nominee for the FCCLA Board of Directors. Mindy consistently goes above and beyond in exemplifying what it means to be a leader in the Family and Consumer Sciences field while also maintaining a high-quality FCCLA chapter.

Professionally, Mindy has served as the Arkansas FCCLA Region 5 Coordinator, where she has played a key role in planning and executing a regional conference that regularly serves more than 400 members. She has also been the President of the Arkansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (AATFCS). During her tenure with AATFCS, Mindy served on numerous boards and committees, ensuring the organization continued to provide meaningful support and professional growth opportunities for educators across the state. In addition, she has served in multiple capacities on the Arkansas ACTE Board, consistently demonstrating a commitment to service, collaboration, and leadership.

Because of her exceptional dedication, hard work, and commitment to both students and the profession, Mindy has received numerous FCCLA and professional honors, including the prestigious FCCLA Spirit of Advising Award and recognition as the Arkansas ACTE New Teacher of the Year.

As an FCCLA adviser, Mindy's impact is equally impressive. She has guided numerous students to serve as Region and State Officers, supported students advancing to the national level in STAR Events, and consistently completed and promoted National Programs. Mindy ensures her members fully engage in FCCLA's Ultimate Leadership Experience and are empowered to reach their highest potential.

Mindy Lyle's experience, integrity, and passion for FCCLA make her an outstanding candidate for the FCCLA Board of Directors. I am confident she would bring valuable insight, strong leadership, and a deep commitment to the organization in this role.

Mary Beth Ivie

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Ivie".

Arkansas FCCLA Adviser



PROVIDING HOPE, HEALING,
AND A SAFE SPACE FOR CHILDREN

1308 Hwy 71 N, Mena, AR 71953



To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Mindy Lyle as she applies for the Local Adviser position on the National FCCLA Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of working with Mindy through our CASA program, and I can confidently say that she is an exceptional educator, leader, and advocate for children.

Mindy serves as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher and FCCLA Adviser with the Ouachita River School District, and her dedication to her students and community is evident in everything she does. She has a remarkable ability to inspire and mobilize her students, as well as those from neighboring schools, to engage in meaningful service projects that make a lasting impact.

One notable project she led involved collecting disposable cake pans, cake mix, icing, candles, and birthday cards for foster children. Many children in foster care have never experienced a birthday celebration, and through Mindy's leadership, students came together to change that. After gathering the supplies, she organized a service day where students from multiple schools assembled birthday kits to ensure these children felt celebrated and valued.

On another occasion, Mindy guided her students in collecting stocking stuffers to help foster children have a brighter Christmas. Her ability to connect service with compassion teaches students lessons that extend far beyond the classroom.

In addition to her professional role, Mindy is a former foster parent, which gives her a unique and deep personal understanding of the needs of children in care. Her compassion, commitment, and heart for service are truly inspiring.

I strongly recommend Mindy Lyle for this position. She would be an outstanding addition to the National FCCLA Board of Directors, and I am confident she will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and families.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Martin
Executive Director
Ouachita Children's Coalition