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William J. Nelson is an independent consultant who works with educational organizations, membership associations, cooperatives, and non-profits as they address personal, professional, and organizational transitions.

He previously served as vice president of Corporate Citizenship for CHS Inc. and president of the CHS Foundation. He retired from CHS March 1, 2016.

William is a founding member of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation, and currently serves as its Board Chair. He is a Trustee of the NCFC Education Foundation, a Director of the Farm Foundation, a member of the Farm Foundation Roundtable, and a Member of the MN Department of Agriculture's Good Food Access Program Advisory Committee. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the Southern Federation of Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund's Co-op Roundtable; the Advisory Committee for Ogallala Commons, and the Planning Committee for the Latinos in Ag 2018 Conference. He was a founding member of ASHCA, the Ag Safety and Health Council of America, served as its first Chair of the Board, and continues to serve on its Board of Directors.

William joined CHS in 1992 after serving 13 years as a University of Minnesota faculty member and administrator. He has been awarded FFA's Honorary American Farmer Degree, was inducted into the USA Cooperative Hall of Fame in 2015 and was recognized by IFAMA (International Food and Ag Management Association) as a Fellow in 2016. He was selected as the 2018 Business Leader of the Year by the Association for Career and Technical Education.