

News Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --- *Co-op educators meet in Minneapolis next week*



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*Rational Hope is focus of continent's co-op and credit union educators, researchers in Minneapolis.*

*July 28-31*

*MINNEAPOLIS, July 22, 2009 -- Business ethics, employee-owned businesses, Native Nations and Aboriginal business development, the role of young people in organizations, and cutting edge business management practices comprise the discussion of Rational Hope at the annual Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) Institute. The Institute will be held July 28-31 at The Depot Minneapolis.*

*ACE unites university researchers and instructors specializing in cooperatives and credit unions throughout North America and the Caribbean. The association decided to focus on strengthening cooperative structures during an economic downturn, says ACE executive administrator, Bill Patrie of North Dakota.*

*“Some presenters will congratulate our business, education and social models, some will suggest retooling, and others may be critical.” Patrie adds, “each Institute represents a new beginning, and I am confident this one will help cooperative boards, co-op staff and co-op teachers become even more effective in generating the positive change their organizations were designed to create.”*

*Participants of the Institute will also have the opportunity to recognize cooperators and organizations that lead education. **Tanya Gracie of the Canadian Co-operative Association**, Ottawa, and a graduate of the Southern New Hampshire University will receive the William Hlushko Award to Young Cooperative Educators. Gaining the award acknowledging an organization's contribution to ACE is Minnesota cooperative pioneer **Wedge Community Co-op**. **William J. Nelson**, president of the **CHS Foundation** based in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, will be presented with the Reginald J. Cressman ACE Award recognizing commitment to staff development. Receiving accolades for its successful board education, Programme de formation des élus, is **La Coop fédérée**, the federation of agricultural cooperatives in Quebec, Canada. **Amy Fredregill**, vice president of Cooperative Network in St. Paul, Minnesota, garners the award for Outstanding Contribution to Cooperative Education and Training. **David P. Swanson**, chair of the Agribusiness, Rural Electric and Cooperatives Practice Group of global law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Minneapolis, receives the*

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*award acknowledging professional contribution by an ACE member. All awards will be presented July 29 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Institute Banquet at The Depot Minneapolis.*

*On July 30, Institute participants will visit the Twin Cities area that has been a leader in cooperative development in the United States. Hosts include Wedge Community Co-op and its organic farm; CHS Foundation and CHS Inc., a diversified energy, grains and foods company; 7500 York Cooperative senior housing; Great River Energy, generation and transmission cooperative; worker-owned bicycle cooperative The Hub; farmer-owned food and agricultural cooperative Land O'Lakes, Inc., and Seward Co-op, a natural food co-op.*

*Institute registration information and programs are at [www.ace.coop](http://www.ace.coop) in French, English and Spanish.*

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