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Young cooperator from Ontario recognized for outreach by international educators. leaders

MINNEAPOLIS, July 22, 2009 -- The year's recipient of the William Hlushko Award to Young Cooperative Educators sums up the best hopes of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE). Tanya Gracie of the Canadian Co-operative Association will receive her award at The Depot Minneapolis on July 29.

Gracie, raised in southwestern Ontario, received her introduction to cooperatives through an internship at an agricultural FS Co-op. She blended her education in global studies with her passion for cooperative business and leadership, and after completing another internship with the Ontario Co-operative Association and a degree at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, she embarked on a graduate degree in Southern New Hampshire University's School of Community Economic Development in the United States while working in Canada's capital, Ottawa.

"It is this Tanya's open-hearted enthusiasm for working in the greater world, and embracing others and their differences that make her a great cooperator," says ACE Communication Director Cathy L. Chamberlain. "She is enthusiastic about youth's potential to cooperate, and like ACE, doesn't define herself by geography."

Gracie was also nominated to serve on the ACE Board of Directors; results of the election will be known on July 29 at the association's annual meeting. Additionally, she will lead a discussion at the association's Institute on July 31 about future and young cooperators. She is president of her housing cooperative, a director of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation and one of 60 young people across Canada selected to serve as a member of the Youth Advisory Group for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

The ACE youth award was established 31 years ago in honor of influential early ACE director William Hlushko of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool who wished to encourage young people starting their careers and showing resolve to fulfill their aspirations and ideas of cooperative education. Nominees for the award are 35 years of age or younger.

Others receiving ACE awards at the association's annual institute are Minnesota pioneer Wedge Community Co-op; William J. Nelson, president of the CHS Foundation, La Coop fédérée, the

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --- *Tanya Gracie*

federation of agricultural cooperatives in Quebec, Canada; Amy Fredregill, vice president of the Cooperative Network committed to building cooperative businesses in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and David P. Swanson, chair of the Agribusiness, Rural Electric and Cooperatives Practice Group of global law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Minneapolis.

ACE is a membership organization that links educators, researchers, cooperative members, and cooperative developers across cooperative sectors and national borders to enhance cooperative development, strengthen cooperatives, promote professionalism and improve public understanding.

Registration and program information for the 2009 Institute in Minneapolis on July 28-31 is at www.ace.coop in French, English and Spanish.

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