

Association of Cooperative Educators meet for its first Winnipeg Institute from July 26-29

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, July 2011 -- Although it has been meeting nearly 60 years, the Association of Cooperative Educators is holding its first Winnipeg Institute from July 26-29.

Attending the Institute at the University of Winnipeg are educators, researchers, communicators, and students and developers of cooperatives and credit unions, primarily from Canada, United States and Puerto Rico. The theme is Opening New Doors: Explore innovations and ask what's possible in cooperative research, education and development to lead social and economic change.



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Highlighted are Manitoba cooperatives and social enterprises including Winnipeg-based Assiniboine Credit Union, Village Canadien Co-op Ltée, Mondragon Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Natural Cycle Worker Co-Op Ltd, Neechi Foods Co-Op Ltd., Arctic Co-operatives Limited and NorWest Co-op Community Health Centre. Participants will also hear from a creator of the new cooperatives management course within the Business Administration Department at the University of Winnipeg, launched earlier this year, and other educators researching and writing about cooperatives and democratic economies from British Columbia to Italy, the Arctic and Puerto Rico.

The association's executive administrator, Sarah M. Pike, says there is so much in which Manitoba leads, "one wonders why (co-op) educators haven't brought their Institute here before."

In addition, four from Winnipeg will also be honored by the association on July 28 at its award ceremonies. Monica Adeler, an instructor at the University of Winnipeg, receives the new John Logue ACE Award recognizing those who connect educational resources to practical solutions benefitting communities. The University of Winnipeg is recognized for its assistance to help bring the Institute to Winnipeg for the first time. Also recognized by the association will be SEED Winnipeg Inc. Executive Director Cindy Coker for inspiring volunteers and employees on both sides of the Canada/U.S. border. Arctic Co-operatives Limited is lauded for bringing governance and employee education to the Far North.

The annual ACE Institute, held in a different city each year, allows members to learn from one another and their host region, and highlights new learning about cooperatives and credit unions.

Learn more at www.ace.coop. More information on the 2011 ACE Institute is posted in English, French and Spanish on www.2011ACE.com.

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