

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kent State educator is inspiration for new international co-op award



29630 - 109th Avenue North
Hanover, MN 55341

CLEVELAND, July 19, 2010 -- A new award to be unveiled next week in Cleveland marks the Association of Cooperative Educator's greater involvement in cooperative development and pays tribute to an educator who made cooperative success more than a study.

The John Logue ACE Award is given in honor of the founder of the Ohio Employee Ownership Center (OEOC) at Kent State University who died last year. The prize will be given annually to individuals or organizations whose educational programs, technical assistance and research lead to innovative cooperatives that promote democratic work environments and economic sustainability.

John Logue was professor of Political Science at Kent State University and a recognized champion of employee ownership. Under his direction, OEOC helped preserve companies and jobs in Ohio through worker buy-outs of businesses undergoing ownership transitions.

"Through John's work, more than 14,000 Ohioans are owners of their workplaces, and this state is (a) recognized...leader in employee ownership," says Ted Howard, the founding Executive Director of The Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland. From July 28-30, participants of the ACE Institute from across United States, Canada and the Caribbean will study a project aided by OEOC: Evergreen Cooperative businesses. Cleveland's Evergreen Cooperative Laundry, Ohio Cooperative Solar, and Green City Growers Cooperative show how ventures serving anchor institutions (those unlikely to move from an area) and protecting the environment provide stable employment, create important spin-offs in the local economy, and increase the wealth of workers and their families.

"The John Logue ACE Award is an important signal to our members," says Sarah Pike, grants manager and institute coordinator for ACE. "In addition to our traditional role uniting researchers of cooperatives with those working in cooperatives and credit unions, ACE is involving those creating cooperatives." She adds that, "John Logue embodied it all -- research, academia and on-the-ground validation of the cooperative model to help people, right now."

Assisting to introduce the award at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center at 7:00 p.m. on July 29 will be members of OEOC, including Logue's wife, Olga Klepikova. Also, receiving awards for their contribution to knowledge about cooperatives and credit unions will be

Jen Heneberry of the Ontario Co-operative Association, Audrey Malan, former executive of CooperationWorks!, Bob Cohen, CEO of Braintree Business Development Center in Ohio, and OEOC.

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. More information on the 2010 ACE Institute is posted in English, French and Spanish on www.2010ACEInstitute.com.

###

Contacts: Sarah Pike, grants manager, pike@ace.coop, 763-432-2032 /
Cathy L. Chamberlain, communication director, chamberlain@ace.coop,
905-814-8705