

Media Release

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Cleveland provides lessons for cooperators attending ACE Institute this month



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MINNEAPOLIS, July 19, 2010 -- Held up as an example of a city revitalizing its industry through cooperatives, Cleveland is the host of next week's conference for leading educators, trainers, developers and researchers of credit unions and cooperatives in North America and the Caribbean.

The Association of Cooperative Educators Institute convenes at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center from July 27 - 30. About 100 participants will learn from Evergreen Cooperative Laundry, part of a growing network of Cleveland worker cooperatives developed by the Ohio Employee Ownership Center at Kent State University, in partnership with the Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland, the Cleveland Foundation, and ShoreBank Enterprise Cleveland.

"We are onto something really huge," says ACE Executive Administrator Bill Patrie about cooperatives and their potential at this time in history. He says a growing interest in regaining control over business, environmental stewardship and economic development encourages more communities to investigate cooperatives and other social enterprises.

It is a movement that ACE Institute Keynote Speaker David C. Korten predicted several years ago. He is the author of *Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth*, and *The Great Turning*. Korten will be joined by Michael Peck of MONDRAGON Internacional, S.A. His organization collaborated with United Steelworkers to introduce United States and Canada to the world-recognized Mondragon model for worker ownership.

In addition, Institute participants will learn how cooperatives contribute to conflict resolution, economic development in Latino, Indigenous and Muslim communities, and solutions in health care. Excellence on boards of directors will also be discussed and focus on two critical recent studies and several examples in North America.

Participants will also celebrate the work of John Logue, the founder of the Ohio Employee Ownership Center (OEOC) at Kent State University who died last year. The association introduces an award on July 29 recognizing individuals or organizations whose educational programs, technical assistance or research lead to innovative cooperatives promoting a democratic work environment and economic sustainability. Also receiving prizes 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 aims to bring together all involved in education about cooperative organizations, from board directors and cooperative economic developers to university researchers. More information on the 2010 ACE Institute is posted in English, French and Spanish on www.2010ACEInstitute.com.

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