

Media Release

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Twin Cities' Latino cooperative community to inform education meeting in Cleveland



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MINNEAPOLIS, July 19, 2010 -- Latino cooperators from the Twin Cities will help develop a new direction for teaching about cooperatives and credit unions at the 2010 Association of Cooperative Educators Institute next week in Cleveland.

Meeting at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center from July 27 - 30, about 100 participants will learn from the experience of Cooperative Mercado Central, Plaza Latina and Global Market of Minneapolis and St. Paul. They will compare them with the new worker cooperative movement in Cleveland 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. Education about cooperatives is in greater demand, he adds.

Conference keynote speaker David C. Korten predicted a growing desire for more democratic business practices 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 and the United Steelworkers collaborated to introduce Canada and the United States to the world-recognized Mondragon model for worker ownership.

In addition, Institute participants will learn how cooperatives contribute to conflict resolution, economic development in Indigenous and Muslim communities, and solutions in health care. Excellence on boards of directors will also be discussed and focus on two 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 on www.2010ACEInstitute.com in English, French and Spanish.

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