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*International cooperative educators thank local food coop for paving way*

*MINNEAPOLIS, July 22, 2009 -- Participants of the international Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) will soon visit the Twin-Cities area that has generated cooperative growth imitated throughout North America. One cooperative is the Wedge Community Co-op ([www.wedge.coop](http://www.wedge.coop)) that is to receive the organizational award for Outstanding Contribution to ACE at The Depot Minneapolis on July 29.*

*The cooperative, the first certified organic retailer in Minnesota, is owned by nearly 14,000 members, and has developed the Co-op Partners Warehouse to distribute organic and local perishables and other products and to optimize transportation of local goods to cooperatives. In addition, members distribute funds through the WedgeShare program to groups that match the cooperative's goals, such as the Emergency Foodshelf Network. Sow the Seeds Fund was also initiated by The Wedge Community Co-op and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to support sustainable food production. Two years ago, the cooperative purchased the Gardens of Eagan farm to preserve a leading organic producer in the area.*

*"Starting 35 years ago as a retail store, it is committed fully to the co-op community," says Sarah Pike, grants manager, ACE. "The Wedge has graciously offered to share its experience with North American and Caribbean cooperators; it can teach so much."*

*Others receiving ACE awards at the association's annual institute are William J. Nelson, president of the CHS Foundation, Tanya Gracie of the Canadian Co-operative Association in Ottawa; Amy Fredregill, vice president of the Cooperative Network committed to building cooperative businesses in Wisconsin and Minnesota; David P. Swanson, chair of the Agribusiness, Rural Electric and Cooperatives Practice Group of global law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Minneapolis, and La Coop fédérée, based in Montreal, Canada, which is recognized for its director education program.*

*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.*

News Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --- The Wedge *recognized*

*Registration and program information for the 2009 Institute in Minneapolis on July 28-31 is at [www.ace.coop](http://www.ace.coop) in French, English and Spanish.*

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