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CHS Foundation President William Nelson recognized for investing in staff as well as leaders

MINNEAPOLIS, July 22, 2009 -- If there was ever a master recruiter and coach in cooperative education, it is William J. Nelson, president of CHS Foundation. He will be honored by colleagues throughout North America and the Caribbean, receiving the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) Reginald J. Cressman Award Recognizing Commitment to Staff Development on July 29 at The Depot Minneapolis.

Nelson is also director of corporate giving for CHS Inc., based in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, past president and executive administrator of ACE, and a member of its 2009 Institute Planning Committee. He served as a faculty member and administrator in the University of Minnesota for 13 years prior to joining what is now CHS in 1992. Additionally, he served as President of The Cooperative Foundation that supports cooperative development, research, and education.

“William’s leadership skills, stewardship values, and commitment to education have progressively guided the CHS foundation, providing countless opportunities for individuals across the country,” says nominator Linda Tank, vice president, marketing communications, CHS Inc.

Tank adds that Nelson takes his role farther and, “continually offers employees opportunities fostering personal growth and supports their continued educational pursuits. His investment in interns and team development cultivates new ideas within the foundation ...and he built many connections with external organizations...(which provide) additional opportunities for (all) parties.”

The Cressman award was established with Nelson’s help almost 20 years ago to honor a retired ACE director from Ontario, and fill a missing gap in ACE’s recognition of employees’ contribution to the success of their cooperatives and credit unions.

Others receiving ACE awards at the association’s annual institute are Minnesota pioneer Wedge Community Co-op; Tanya Gracie of the Canadian Co-operative Association, Ottawa; La Coop fédérée, the federation of agricultural cooperatives in Quebec, Canada; Amy Fredregill, vice president of the Cooperative Network committed to building cooperative businesses in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and David P. Swanson, chair of the Agribusiness,

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --- *William J. Nelson recognized*

*Rural Electric and Cooperatives Practice Group of global law firm
Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Minneapolis.*

*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.*

*Registration and program information for the 2009 Institute in
Minneapolis on July 28-31 is at www.ace.coop in French, English
and Spanish.*

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