

Media Release

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2007-2008 ACE Board in Place; Officers appointed

Anne Reynolds, assistant director, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, Madison; James Wadsworth, program leader, USDA - RBS/Cooperative Service, Washington, DC; and Rizick Rosario Peña, education manager, Cooperativa de Seguros Múltiples de Puerto Rico were reelected to the ACE Board of Directors as a result of a vote of the membership in May.

Following the election, the board named Roger Herman, board chair; Sylvia Ríos Ortiz, vice chair and Wadsworth, secretary. Herman is educational program development and research officer at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan, SK; and Ríos Ortiz is director of the office of cooperative education for Cooperativa Seguros de Vida (COSVI), an insurance cooperative in San Juan, PR.

In July, the ACE Board appointed Jessica Gordon Nembhard, assistant professor and economist (political economist) in the African American Studies Department, and co-founder of The Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland, College Park to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jorge Sousa, assistant professor, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Gordon Nembhard's research focuses on community- and asset-based economic development and democratic community economics, cooperative economics and worker ownership, alternative urban economic and educational development strategies, racial wealth inequality and wealth accumulation in communities of color and popular

economic literacy. She has served on the boards of the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives and the Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy, and on the Editorial Collective of the *Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter*.

The other ACE board members are: Cathy Statz, education director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Chippewa Falls; Colette Lebel, director of cooperative affairs, La Coop fédérée, Montréal, QC; and Rod Kelsay, executive director, Mid America Cooperative Council, Indianapolis, IN.

ACE is a membership organization that brings together educators and cooperators across cooperative sectors as well as national boundaries. The resulting cross pollination of ideas enhances cooperative development, strengthens cooperatives, promotes professionalism and improves public understanding. Most ACE members come from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico while membership from the rest of the world is growing. For additional information about ACE and the ACE Awards, go to www.ace.coop.