

# January 2017 - 1



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## Building an Online Network for Co-op Educators – Productive Planning in 2016

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Thanks to the CHS Foundation, ACE in partnership with the Toolbox for Education and Social Action (TESA) and Grassroots Economic Organizing (GEO) have been working in partnership to plan the CENet (Cooperative Educator’s Network) online community. The purpose is to elevate cooperative education through providing a repository of existing coop educational materials in one location (linking out to existing libraries and resource pages) as well as the space for dialogue between practitioners and educators (whereby further needed materials/tools can be developed and educational needs better met). The 2016 calendar year has involved wide consultation with educators and practitioners across North America and the Caribbean (80 stakeholder groups) in order to build a plan that meets needs for co-op education. Thanks for everyone who participated in a call, focus group or survey!

In order to optimize the ideas that arose through the consultations, the project partners held a focus group with representatives from the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance, the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives and CDS Consulting Cooperative in Philadelphia on December 8-9.

It’s time to move from the planning and consultation phase into the building phase so 2017 will be an important year for this network. If you would like additional information, please contact Erin Hancock at [erinhancock1@gmail.com](mailto:erinhancock1@gmail.com).



Left to right: David Morgan from TESA, Erin Hancock – consultant with ACE, Josh Davis with Grassroots Economic Organizing.



Left to right: David Morgan from TESA, Liz Anderson – Fellow with US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, Josh Davis from Grassroots Economic Organizing, Caitlin Quigley from Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance, Rebecca Torpie from CDS Consulting Coop, Esteban Kelly from US Federation of Worker Cooperatives and National Cooperative Business Association (behind the camera – Erin Hancock, consultant with ACE and works with Co-operative Management Education at Saint Mary's University)

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