

PASSING ALONG PASSION FOR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES



Co-op Education Institute
July 18-21, 2017
Denver, Regis University

**Transmettre
la passion des principes
démocratiques**

Congrès annuel sur l'éducation coopérative
Denver, Regis University
18 au 21 juillet 2017

**Transmitiendo
la pasión por los principios
democráticos**

Conferencia Anual sobre Educación Cooperativa
Denver, Regis University
Julio 18-21



Presenting Sponsor
Commanditaire Officiel
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Thursday Night Party

\$5 suggested donation gets you access to killer beats and one drink (nonalcoholic options available!), with additional drinks available by donation.

Queen City Cooperative is one of few resident-owned housing cooperatives in Denver. After two years of home improvements, house meetings, and shared dinners, it is formalizing its cooperative structure. This event will help it raise funds for legal and accounting fees.

Attendees may choose to contribute to Queen City's fund or to the ACE student scholarship fund for the 2018 ACE Institute. You may contribute to Queen City Coop in advance by visiting its Patreon account: <https://www.patreon.com/user?u=6656932>

Silent Auction Monday–Wednesday

Our auction that started close to a quarter century ago in Puerto Rico at an ACE Institute continues today to support those who need assistance to attend the Institute. Donations of opportunities (e.g., registrations in other conferences) and items such as cooperative promotional gear are sold at a silent auction.

The auction will conclude at the ACE Awards Banquet on Wednesday.

Your bids and donations are important!

Thank you for your support

2017 Institute Planning Committee:

Catharine Chamberlain (Institute Administrator); **Bill Stevenson**, Cooperative Development Center at Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; **Andréa Renaud and Colette Label**, La Coop fédérée (Quebec); **Erin Hancock**, ACE and Saint Mary's University (Nova Scotia); **Michelle Sturm**, The Denver Foundation, Economic Opportunity Team; **Cathy Statz**, ACE Director and Wisconsin Farmers Union; **Jesus Lucero**, USACYC (www.youth.coop); **Fiona Duguid**, Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (Quebec); **Nathan Schneider**, University of Colorado Boulder; **William Nelson**, independent scholar (Minnesota); **Jennifer Luitjens Bahr**, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; **Halisi Vinson**, Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center; and **Caroline Savery**, Cooperative Business Development Consultant, Denver

Translations: A special thank you to translators at Cooperativa de Seguros Múltiples de Puerto Rico and to **Oscar Colón Rivera** for Spanish, and to **Josée Charbonneau** of IRECUS for French.

Thank you to our ACE sponsors whose financial assistance provides scholarships, awards, language interpretation and other services that are vital to our Institute.

Also thanks to honorees of our ACE Awards Banquet for their part in developing cooperatives and demonstrating how education can be different.

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Join us in conversation on:
[s.coop/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/s.coop/linkedin)

Please take five minutes to complete an online evaluation of this Institute:
[surveymonkey.com/r/ACEedunet](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACEedunet)

Select papers and slide presentations from the ACE Institute will be posted at ace.coop/2017-ace

Welcome to Denver and to the 2017 ACE Institute!!!

Passing along passion for democratic principles is the theme and anchor of the 2017 ACE Institute. From the keynote address, to the presentations on the latest research, the mobile learning sessions, the awards banquet, and in conversation with fellow Institute participants, passion for the democratic cooperative principles will be evident and on display throughout this week. Whether this is your first ACE Institute or a learning event you return to year after year, we thank you for joining us this week and encourage you to take the opportunity to get to know co-operators from near and far.

The Institute Planning Committee and our local partners have once again put together a rich, engaging and dynamic program that offers something for everyone in furthering their professional development as a cooperative educator. Of course, wherever the Institute is held, the program reflects the local flavor of the cooperative community and will showcase Denver and area cooperative enterprises, from emerging cooperatives to those who have long been part of the network of cooperatives.

Special thanks to:

- the Institute Planning Committee for their months of hard work,
- the team at Rocky Mountain Farmers Union for being an early and engaged partner and for all of your contributions along the way, and to,
- Catharine Chamberlain, a long-time and passionate ACE member, for all of her work in leading, coordinating and ensuring the success of the 2017 ACE Institute.

On behalf of the ACE Board, welcome to Denver!



Tanya Gracie
ACE President

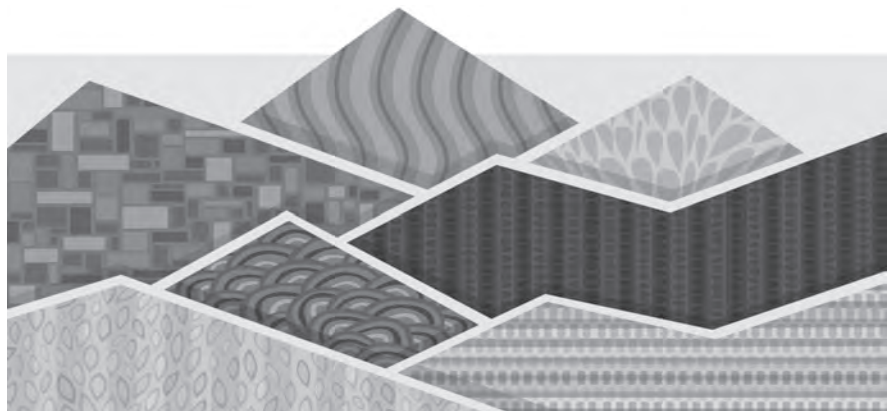


Illustration by Ruby Thompson, Layout & Design: Triangle Park Creative



Monday, July 17

The Youth Cohort (CHS Foundation scholarship recipients and other students) are invited to meet at 7:00 p.m. in West Hall at Regis University.

Other participants are invited to an informal get together at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Westminster (8773 Yates Drive) at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18

Regis University

9:00-10:30 **Registration, Information
Tables and Silent Auction**
(Outside Mountain View Room)

10:30-11:30 **ACE Annual Meeting
All are welcome**
(Mountain View Room)

12:00-1:00 **Official Opening of the 2017
ACE Institute**
**Welcome Luncheon in the
Mountain View Room**

Sponsored by
La Coop fédérée

12:45-1:15 **Community Wealth Building
and Cooperation**

Welcome to Metro Denver. This is a brief presentation on the demographic, economic, social, and political profile of the area and the rise of the Community Wealth Building Network here to help create a much more inclusive society with equitable opportunities for all. The cooperative model is expected to play an important, indeed, integral role in these efforts.



Yessica Holguin is the first employee of the Community Wealth Building Network of Metro Denver. Hired this spring as the Community Wealth Building Network

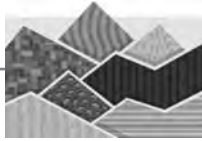
Fellow, Yessica has more than 15 years of experience in marketing, human resource management, and information systems design to develop small businesses, cooperatives, and organizations in the nonprofit sector. Most recently, Yessica was with an organization that empowers Nicaraguans, working with local leaders, organizations, and government agencies to build capacity and promote sustainable development. Yessica also worked at the Denver Scholarship Foundation and helped to design the college and financial aid advising program in Denver high schools. She is a Master of Science in Management and Organization with a track in Human Resources from the University of Colorado Denver.



Since 2011, **Bill Stevenson**, an attorney, has been working as the director of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center, a program of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Foundation, and is serving on the executive committee of the Metro Denver Community Wealth Building Network. Bill has been involved in dozens of Cooperative Center projects, including Colorado HealthOP, the Colorado statewide cooperative insurance company formed under the Affordable Care Act which became in just two years an 85,000-member nonprofit cooperative; Walk2Connect Cooperative, a first-in-the-nation walking cooperative; introducing west Metro Denver corner store owners to the possibility of forming a healthy, local foods purchasing cooperative; serving as chair and president of CooperationWorks!, the national organization of cooperative developers, during its conversion from a cooperative to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit for fundraising purposes; and managing the growth of the Cooperative Center from three full-time staffers to four full-time and two part-time employees.

1:15-1:30

Break



1:30-2:15

Keynote: Community Wealth Building: Path to a Democratic Economy

Calls to change ownership structures are no longer rare, yet corporate domination of the economy persists. This presentation, based on findings from over 60 interviews conducted between August and December 2016, will examine the current state of community wealth building (social economy) in the United States, with an eye toward asking how co-ops and other forms of community wealth building might move from the margins of the economy to the center.



Steve Dubb is a longtime co-op activist and educator, working for NASCO from 2000 to 2003 and *The Democracy Collaborative* from 2004 to 2016, where he retains an affiliation as a senior fellow. Steve presently works as a consultant assisting community groups to develop community wealth building strategies. He is author of *Conversations on Community Wealth Building (2016)*, a collection of community development practitioner interviews, and, with Rita Hodges, *The Road Half Traveled: University Engagement at a Crossroads (2012)*. Steve received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, San Diego.

2:15-3:15

Opportunities through Cooperation and Collaboration in Native American Communities

Historically, Native communities possessed elaborate food systems for hunting, gathering, farming and trade. Historical policies aimed at land displacement, removal and cultural transformation focused on replacing traditional Native agricultural practices and foods with diets dependent on government rations and other federal programs, as well as convenience. As a result, today almost all reservations in the U.S. are in what the U.S. Department of Agriculture labels as a food desert. Moreover, Native people

face disproportionately higher rates of food insecurity, hunger and diet-related diseases when compared to the larger population. Despite this reality, there is a dynamic and growing movement taking place in Native communities working to increase access to fresh and healthy foods, create economically viable agricultural cooperative business models, offset household income spent on food, and create local policies to exert greater control over the local food system. Through its Native American Food Systems and Agriculture Initiative, First Nations Development Institute (FNDI), a national Native American nonprofit, located in Longmont, Colorado, is honored to have supported this expanding movement in Native communities.

In this session, the presenters will provide an overview of how this movement is generating economic opportunities for Native American ranchers and farmers working cooperatively to manage costs, increase profitability, and engage the next generation of producers. The presenters will showcase the Nahata Dził 14R Ranch Corporation located on the Navajo Nation. They will share the development of this new community and the role of the organization in creating jobs and generating community economic development, along with challenges and wins along the way.



Nahata Dził 14R Ranch Corporation Board of Directors President Elwood (El) Pahi is a tribal-enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and a Native American rancher raising source-verified beef under the Navajo Beef label. The 14R Ranch is a nonprofit organization incorporated on the Navajo Nation, located in what is called "New Lands" or Nahata Dził (by the Navajo) near the Sanders, Arizona area. Located on 360,000 acres of grazing land, shared by 81 permit holders, more than 30 Navajo ranchers participate in the Navajo Beef cooperative that supplies source-verified Navajo beef to local casinos.

Recently retired from an engineering career with the Arizona Public Service, El now



has more time to spend with his family, his ranch, assisting Navajo ranchers, and building the corporation as a sustainable and profitable organization for its members.



FNDI Vice President of Programs and Administration **Jackie Francke** serves on the Native Agriculture and Foods Systems Initiative Team implementing projects related to strengthening local foods systems, conservation planning and accessing new markets for Native American producers. Jackie works with Native American producers and Tribal conservation districts in the southwest to develop conservation strategies and resources for grassroots organizations.

Prior to joining FNDI in 2010, she spent 11 years as president of Geotechnika, Inc. and 10 years as a senior engineer with Westinghouse TRU Solutions before starting her consulting business. She received her bachelor's in mining engineering from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and lives in Longmont.

Photos courtesy of FNDI



Oscar Colón Rivera is with the Cooperativa de Seguros Múltiples, where he has distinguished himself through commitment in the cooperative movement of Puerto Rico, as well as the field of cooperative education and social responsibility. Oscar's formal studies are in educational technology from the Universidad Central de Bayamón. He is an accomplished broadcaster, photographer and event coordinator. He is also a member of the ACE Board.



Gladys Bezares is the education officer of la Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito de Médicos y Otros Profesionales de la Salud (MediCoop) and has worked for the institution for the last 10 years. In addition, she serves on the Liga de Cooperativas de Puerto Rico's education committee that promotes cooperativism and trains cooperative leaders. Gladys and her cooperative collaborated with the Puerto Rican Department of Education to hold a special conference on youth cooperatives in 2014. Gladys studied communications at La Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in San Juan.



Lucas N. Avilés-Rodríguez has been Professor in the Department of Agro-Environmental Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez (UPRM) for close to 30 years. He is the Dean of Administration, a position he has held for the past four years, teaching courses at the Department of Agricultural Economics. Lucas is vice president of the Board of Directors of life insurance provider Cooperativa de Seguros de Vida de Puerto Rico (COSVI).

3:15-3:30

Break

3:30-5:00

Innovating Education for Youth

This panel will show new educational tools developed in Puerto Rico to promote co-ops in their reach to youth including using mobile apps, celebrity endorsements, distance education, and programs targeted specifically to young leaders.

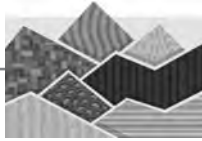


Jonathan F. Rodríguez has been at the Liga de Cooperativas de Puerto Rico as a development officer since 2015. His key focus has been to educate 5,000 young people and others on the cooperative movement. Jonathan's previous experience has been in financial literacy, security and human resources. The Liga's main functions are to represent all cooperatives to the government, defend cooperative principles and promote cooperative education, development and research.

5:15-10:00

Optional Outing: Coors Field

Meet at the Registration Desk outside of the Mountain View Room if you are heading to the baseball game.



Wednesday, July 19

8:00-9:00

Continental Breakfast (Mountain View Room)

9:00-10:15

Keynote: Democratic Design for the Online Economy

The disappointments of the online economy – for instance, user surveillance and systemic labor abuses – stem at least in part from its failures to meaningfully share ownership and governance with relevant stakeholders. Under the banner of ‘platform cooperativism’, an emerging network of cooperative developers, entrepreneurs, labor organizers, and scholars is developing an economic ecosystem that seeks to align the ownership and governance of enterprises with the people whose lives are most affected by them. This represents a radical critique of the existing online economy, but it’s also a field of experimentation for alternative forms of ownership design. This workshop presents and analyzes some of the ways platform cooperativism has begun to generate ownership designs that could serve the platform economy of the future differently than the investor-owned structures that currently prevail.



Nathan Schneider is a scholar-in-residence of media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder who writes about economy, technology, and religion. His articles have appeared in publications including *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Catholic Worker*, and others. He writes regular columns for *America*, a national Catholic weekly, and *Vice* magazine, and he is a contributing editor for *YES! Magazine*. In 2015, he co-organized “Platform Cooperativism,” a pioneering conference on democratic online platforms at The New School, and co-edited the subsequent book, *Ours to Hack and to Own: The Rise of Platform Cooperativism, a New Vision for the Future of Work and a Fairer Internet*. Follow his work on social media at @ntnsndr or at his website, nathanschneider.info.

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-10:45

Concurrent Workshops (choose one)

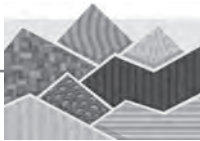
Platform Co-ops: A Model Business Structure

(Mountain View Room)

Learn the foundation for a multi-stakeholder cooperative, how to finance the start-up, about growth of the enterprise and what are some archetypes competing in the market. Explore why platform cooperative models are gaining traction in technology, business and ecosystem development, agriculture, and local investing.



Jason Wiener is the Principal at Jason Wiener, P.C., a boutique law and business consulting practice providing expertise to social enterprises and mission-driven business models of all sizes and in all phases. Jason’s specialty is in sharing economy law, social and regenerative enterprise, public benefit corporations, employee-ownership and cooperatives. Jason has been the in-house General Counsel with Namasté Solar (an employee-owned cooperative), following a previous life at a large litigation firm in New York City, and before that, with a small labor law firm in Boston. Jason has been chief architect and has incorporated several social enterprises and cooperatives and advised numerous clients through socially responsible recapitalizations and conversions to cooperatively-owned business models. Jason is also an adjunct professor in Colorado State University’s Global Sustainability and Social Enterprise program, where he teaches an MBA course on business law and ethics.



Looking at Power in Our Cooperatives' Processes

(Claver Hall, Room 306)

Participatory work cultures are both more fun and engaging and more capable of navigating complex change. Organizational research is showing that when power is used collaboratively we get better results on our missions and happier, more capable people doing the work. In this workshop, participants will engage in discussion about what power is, and how it affects every facet of work life, and most importantly what we can concretely do every day to practice and leverage collaborative power. Through dialogue, presentation and simulation we'll explore common experiences around power dynamics, a map of power in communication, and experience a practical social technology for collaborative power and decision-making called Collab that we've researched, developed and teach.



Charlotte Root is committed to helping holistically mission-driven organizations. She is a Certified Collab Facilitator, a collaborative leadership facilitator and trainer, and she works with individuals and organizations to help build shared leadership capabilities, understanding of democratically run businesses, and connections in organizations to body, heart, and mind.



Rebecca Fisher-McGinty is the Communications Wizard at Round Sky Solutions. She envisions a world (and workplace) where people can live up to their potential, community is valued and invested in, and power is embodied with love. She has a B.S. in environmental policy from UC Berkeley and experience working in community and environmental organizations. She is rooted in New Orleans where she is a community organizer for racial and social justice.

11:45-12:30

Lunch

(Mountain View Room)

12:30-1:00

Sound Off – Open Mic

This is an opportunity to briefly explain a project and seek collaborators, insights and mentors.

1:00-2:15

Concurrent Workshops (choose one)

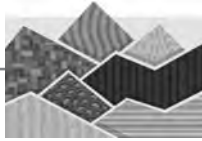
Generating a Co-op Conscience ... Next Generation

(Mountain View Room)

There is a difference between providing information and passing along passion. The target of information is often the mind, but the target of passion needs to be the heart. Aligning with the 2017 ACE Institute theme, Passing Along Passion, workshop participants will explore a mental model of online/face-to-face education (LEARN.coop) focused on integrating individuals into a Cooperative Learning Community, and not simply providing courses of content. LEARN.coop is specifically designed to effectively pass along passion to the NextGeneration of cooperative leaders.

LEARN.coop is a multi-sided/multi-stakeholder cooperative learning community. Founded on educational research, LEARN.coop "flips the classroom" by:

- Pre-boarding - introducing the core training concepts and terminology prior to attending face-to-face courses, utilizing an online eLearning system.
- On-boarding - through live instructor-facilitated courses conducted by experienced cooperative educators, both face-to-face in the classroom, or online narrowcast classes.
- On demand support - through online "peer-advisor" and professional "mentoring" networks, providing



an on-demand knowledge-base of searchable information, additional scenario-based learning online case studies designed to enhance competency among the cooperative and within the boardroom.



Rick Petty is CEO of Logan County Electric Cooperative in rural west central Ohio. Rick served within LCEC as a senior web developer, manager of Information Systems and vice-president of communications/member services prior to assuming his current responsibilities. Rick's education background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Bowling Green State University, graduate studies in education at BGSU and Huntington University, and the "Online Teaching & Learning" certificate from California State University, Eastbay. In the fall, he will be part of the Sobey School of Business Certificate program in cooperative management at Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia. The focus of his master's level research will be the development of graduate level executive education certificate programs for electric distribution cooperative directors, CEOs and communication professionals.

relationships. We believe the cooperative model offers an urgent and compelling response to critics inside and outside the university who question the value of the liberal arts-based curriculum at a time when high education is perceived as becoming more exclusive, elitist, and disconnected from public life.

Ali Aslam is the author of *Ordinary Democracy* and Visiting Lecturer in politics at Mount Holyoke College.



Azulina Green and **Savannah Harriman-Pote** are student members and owners of Mo'Coffee Student Co-op.



2:15-2:30

Break

Cooperatives and Cooperation at the University

(Claver Hall, Room 306)

Within the context of higher education, the cooperative business model uniquely integrates goals such as preparing students for the workforce, citizenship, sustainability, closing the distance between classroom study and real world application, and community-based learning. We draw from our first-hand experience at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, where we have, as students, faculty, and representatives of the local cooperative community, been involved in starting a student-run and owned coffee cooperative. Each of us has seen how the cooperative model has changed our individual roles and shared


2:30-3:10
Concurrent Workshops
(choose one)

**Models for Cooperation
among Cooperatives**
(Mountain View Room)

The sixth cooperative principle highlights cooperation among cooperatives. This may seem at odds with much of the business context of North America, since it is driven by intense competition among firms for profits. However, just as member-owners form cooperatives to achieve common goals, cooperatives can themselves cooperate to address common interests for their members.

Mergers and Loss of Member Involvement: Historically, mergers, and other forms of consolidation have been the predominant organizational dynamics of cooperatives in both the United States and Canada. The economic, business and financial aspects of these shifts are generally submitted to careful study. However, the longer-term member participation implications often are not.

Co-op researcher Brett Fairbairn suggests that many co-ops have, “pursued a competitive survival strategy of expanding, merging, rationalizing, becoming large bureaucratic organizations in their own right, and distant from their farmer members.” This distance (both organizationally and geographically) can lead to lack of involvement and a thinning out of participation both in governance and in patronage, ultimately compromising the long run vitality of the organization. Our era is no exception to pressures for mergers. New merger activity is occurring in Ohio, Indiana and Texas (see *Rural Cooperatives* May/June 2016, p. 35-37). Senior Economist Tanner Ehmke of CoBank suggests we may be just seeing the cusp of a new wave of mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures as cooperatives deal with excess supplies of grains and oilseeds, storage shortages amid record inventories, and pressures to achieve economies of scale

savings (Ehmke June/July 2016). These trends suggest ever further disaffection of members.

Improving Member Voice: Following a bottom-up ‘cooperation among cooperatives’ model (rather than merger model), can actually improve member involvement and build commitment.

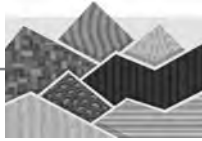
This presentation/poster presents a conceptual development of different models, critiquing each on its strengths in improving member participation and ultimately democratic voice, and potentially off-setting some of the loss.



Thomas W. Gray has been employed as a rural sociologist with the Rural Business-Cooperative Service at USDA for several years as a researcher. He holds a Ph.D. in rural sociology from Ohio State University and is the author of more than 200 popular and journal articles related to member participation and involvement, organizational design of membership structures, and such contextual issues as the conversion problem of cooperatives to investment oriented firms, and market concentration, to name a sample. He also has the honorary distinction as “Cooperative Scholar” from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan. Tom has served as Program Chair and President of the Southern Rural Sociology Society, and is an elected member of the Leadership Council of the Rural Sociology Society of America.

**Needs Assessment for
Co-op Specific Education
and Training**
(Claver Hall Room 306)

The fifth co-operative principle requires the cooperative sector to provide education and training for members and employees, and to inform the public. Different education and training is needed for managers, directors, members and employees, but there is a lack of clarity about where they are getting co-op specific education or training; whether



there is interest in co-op-specific higher education or training, and regarding content and delivery of co-op-specific higher education and training. To address this situation, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada created a task force composed of academics and cooperative practitioners to conduct an assessment of higher education for cooperatives and from this, develop a strategy forward. This poster presents the results of this assessment.



Josée Charbonneau is pursuing a PhD in applied human sciences by studying cooperatives in the forestry sector. She holds master's degrees in management and governance of cooperative and mutual organizations and in environmental studies, as well as a bachelor's degree in environmental geography. Josée has worked with L'Institut de recherche et d'éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles de l'Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS) on a number of research projects since 2011. Her research interests include cooperative management, sustainable and community development, and social innovation to resolve environmental issues.

CENet: Cooperative Education Platform

(Claver Room 306)

CENet is a joint project of ACE, Grassroots Economic Organizing and The Toolbox for Education and Social Action (TESA) that will serve as an on-line hub for finding and sharing cooperative education resources and tools. Our goal is to create an easy way to find the best resources from existing on-line libraries and to facilitate collaboration between and among cooperative educators, consultants and practitioners.

Josh Davis received his bachelor's in economics from the University of Montana in 2004, after which he helped organize and fund a small community school in Challing, Nepal while working jobs ranging from home health care to house painting. He is the content manager for Grassroots Economic Organizing (www.geo.coop) and is also involved in a worker co-op

start-up that will provide locally sourced, sustainably packaged kombucha. He can be reached at josh@geo.coop to discuss CENet.

3:10-5:00

Concurrent Workshops

(Choose one)

Colorado Co-ops Study Circle: Co-learning by and for Cooperators

(Mountain View Room)

This is a grassroots initiative providing opportunities for collective, open, peer-based cooperative education in the Front Range of Colorado, launched by Nathan Schneider and Caroline Savery. The Colorado Co-ops Study Circle is a two-hour (half learning, half networking) event that meets on the last Tuesday of every month in Boulder, Denver or elsewhere along the Front Range. It has met since September and has an average of 22 people at each meeting. Workshop attendees will contribute their "cooperative genius" in informing some of the critical questions facing the future of the study circles.



Caroline Savery has been working in the field of cooperative development since 2011. She is a professional consultant, community educator, facilitator and trainer. Since moving to Denver in late 2013, she has contributed to the development and organizing of several start-up organizations, including the USA Cooperative Youth Council. She has worked with Rocky Mountain Farmers Union to launch a Rocky Mountain Traveling Cooperative Institute. She is working to co-found Cosmos.coop, a platform co-op, and continues to support Colorado Co-ops Study Circle. Caroline has a bachelor's in cinema and digital arts from Point Park University of Pittsburgh.



Co-op Mentorship and Leadership Development Models

(Mountain View Room)

This session will examine mentorship models in the arts community, in platform cooperatives, and housing cooperatives, examining how we can better develop leadership within nonhierarchical organizations. Participants will learn and develop new structures for welcoming and empowering new cooperative members. They will also understand new frameworks for how mentorship might enhance their organizations.



Originally from New Mexico, **C. Paul Bindel** is a writer, social media, and communications professional based in Denver. He first encountered cooperatives while pursuing his master's in English language and literature at the University of Oregon, where he served as president of the Student Cooperative Association. Paul is a co-founder of Queen City Cooperative, communications manager at Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center, an active member of the Colorado Co-ops Study Circle, and a cofounder of Colorado Cooperative Investment Club.



A professional event strategist and community activation specialist for large scale events (500-150,000 people), **Amy Lynn Herman** is founding an event planning cooperative. For 15 years, she has worked with teams to produce high impact, creative events for private and corporate clients including The World Maker Faire, The Great GoogaMooga, Lotus Fest, Pitchfork, Greenpointers.com, Flux Factory (NYC) and NewCo Boulder.

The Importance of Writing Practice in Cooperatives

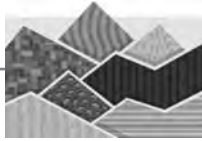
(Claver Hall, Room 306)

Cooperative organizations, being democratically owned, stand out against traditional hierarchical business structures (Cheney, 1995; Kastle, 2013; Williams, 2007). Because of their fundamental difference in structure, cooperatives can face unique challenges in managing individual influence and power. Understanding this power is important for two reasons: 1) democracy and autonomy are important influences on organizational culture, and 2) top-down expressions of control are antithetical to shared goals and values (Cheney, 1995; Williams, 2007).

Given the absence of structural constraints of power, what mechanisms do democratic organizations use to manage individual power? One way to do this is through texts: bylaws, handbooks, employee manuals, sticky notes, emails, and a plethora of mundane and monumental artifacts. This workshop will share takeaways from an investigation of one cooperative where texts had rippling social effects that extended for years, largely invisible to those involved. We will also explore ethical and practical challenges of writing, archiving, and revising texts in a democratic organization. Attendees will learn about the importance of paying attention to writing processes, as well as strategies for ensuring those processes are more democratic. Presenter Avery Edenfield will share specific strategies for fostering a culture of sound writing practice in cooperatives.



Avery C. Edenfield is an assistant professor of Technical Communication and Rhetoric at Utah State University. His research agenda works at the intersections of professional communication and community-embedded work spaces with specific attention to cooperatives, collectives, and nonprofits. Avery's research interests include theories of participation, rhetorics of empowerment and democracy, and community engagement in professional communication.



ACE AWARDS BANQUET

Mountain View
Room

Regis University

July 19, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Emcee: Cathy Statz, ACE Director and Education Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union

Awards recognizing mentorship, innovation and promotion of democratic practices and excellence in education have long been part of part of the ACE Institute. In the last 25 years alone, more than 120 individuals and organizations have received these top honors from their peers. Join us as we welcome four new members into this prestigious alumni.

Award Presentations

- **Outstanding Contribution to Cooperative Education and Training**
Presented by Rod Kelsay, ACE Director and Executive Director, Mid America Cooperative Council
- **The William Hlushko Award to Young Cooperative Educators**
Presented by Nanci Lilja, CHS Foundation President
- **The John Logue ACE Award**
Presented by Steve Dubb, Senior Fellow, The Democracy Collaborative
- **The William J. Nelson Contribution to ACE Award**
Presented by William J. Nelson, Independent Scholar

Know of an outstanding cooperative educator who should be recognized next year? You can nominate someone or an organization for ACE Awards anytime at ace.coop/awards

Thursday, July 20

(NOTE THAT THIS DAY STARTS AT THE DOUBLETREE DENVER-WESTMINSTER AND WILL NOT BE AT CLAVIER HALL, REGIS UNIVERSITY). THOSE WHO ARE STAYING AT THE UNIVERSITY WILL BE PICKED UP AT 7:45 A.M. AND RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSITY AT 4:30 AFTER THE TOURS.

Others are invited to meet at the hotel (free parking) at 8 a.m.

- 8:00 CoBank Breakfast**
DoubleTree Denver-Westminster
8773 Yates Dr.
- 8:30-9:30 Panel Discussion:
Methods & Challenges for
Engaging Millennials in our
Cooperative Culture**

Panelists:

Dan Terrill, CoBank -

Dan Terrill serves as vice president/relationship manager in the Corporate Agribusiness Banking Group at CoBank, ACB. Prior to joining CoBank in 2010, Dan spent time at AXA Advisors working as a financial advisor. He graduated from Regis University with a degree in finance and management.



Sarah E. Spivey, FCC Services - Sarah is a senior consultant for FCC Services in organizational development and education, assisting agriculture and Farm Credit leaders. She facilitates and teaches programs, such as Leadership Development, Gettysburg, and Crucial Conversations. Sarah draws personal and professional inspiration from her parents, both longtime teachers. She earned an M.A. in economics from North Carolina State University and a bachelor's in animal science from Texas A&M University.



Jessica Kueffer, MFA Incorporated - Jessica grew up on her family farm in central Missouri where she found her love for education and training through her involvement in the youth organization, FFA. She attended the University of Missouri, achieving a bachelor's in agribusiness management. Upon graduation, Jessica joined MFA Oil Company, as HR/Corporate training specialist where she was key in implementing a corporate university training platform to reach all 1500 employees. Earlier this year, Jessica joined MFA Incorporated to rebuild and rebrand its training department to better meet the needs of the growing organization.





- 9:30-9:45** **Break**
- 9:45-10:15** **CoBank's History and Future**
- 10:15-10:45** **Namasté Solar – Creating a Cooperative Ecosystem**
Blake Jones is a co-founder of Namasté Solar, a 12-year-old employee-owned cooperative with offices in Colorado, New York, and California. Namasté Solar has also co-developed a purchasing cooperative that has grown to more than 40 solar installation member-companies, a new credit union with a renewable energy theme, and a third new cooperative that will facilitate skilled labor exchanges for maintaining the growing number of solar electric systems throughout the USA.
- 10:45-11:15** **Questions & Answers**
- 11:15-11:30** **Break**
- 11:30 - 4:30** **Board Bus for Mobile Learning Session (Study Tour)**
- Bus stops:**
- Dream Big - Comal Restaurant, 3455 Ringsby Court (TAXI District)
 - Food and Futures - Westwood Food Cooperative, 3738 Morrison Road
- Read about the cooperators you'll meet at <http://ace.coop/mls-2017>
- Tour will return by 4:30 p.m. to Regis University and the DoubleTree Westminster hotel. Lunch is included.
- Evening** **Dinner on your own. Mingle & Network**
- Co-op Bop Dance Party & Potluck**
 (see inside cover)

Friday, July 21

All sessions will be held in Regis University's Claver Hall Room 315

Next Generation Thinking

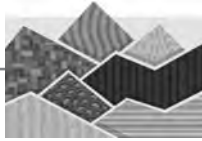
9:00-9:30

Keynote: **The Future of Members-Becoming-Directors**

Cooperative governance in the future will require directors who are able to adapt to changing board responsibilities and requirements in an evolving economic, political, and social environment. How can we anticipate the future and use transition change models to identify and help prepare the next generation of members-becoming-directors?



William J. Nelson *William J. Nelson is an independent scholar from Minnesota. Before his retirement from CHS Inc. in 2016, he was vice president of Corporate Citizenship and president of the CHS Foundation. Additionally, William served on the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives' Executive Education Committee and the board of the National Cooperative Business Association. He continues to serve on the board of directors of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation and on the advisory committees of the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, Ogallala Commons, and the Good Food Access Program of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. William is a long-time member of ACE, serving as its president and administrator, and has been the recipient of several ACE awards. He was inducted into the U.S. Cooperative Hall of Fame in 2015.*



9:30-10:15

Youth Cohort - Passing Along Passion for Education in Co-ops

Interactive Session

More than 20 students and young adults received funding from the CHS Foundation to attend the ACE Institute in 2017. This group of leaders will lead ACE Participants in a discussion of how to engage emerging cooperators.

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-11:00

User, Owner, Co-op: Mapping the Learning Journey for Tech Startups Converting into Platform Cooperatives

Democratizing the Internet presents many challenges, and yet startups see shared ownership models as an opportunity to overcome failure and do right by their users and workers. This session presents the case of #BuyTwitter and related work that suggests a direction forward. It asks, How might we map the educational process for curious and cautious stakeholders to convert a platforms into a cooperative? Participants are invited to help pave the road by collaborating on a working draft of the learning journey.

Presenters include **Jason Wiener** (see biography from July 19) and **Danny Spitzberg**. Danny researches ways to build cooperatives and community platforms. He sees cooperative conversions as key to closing loopholes in our political and economic system.

Danny is principal researcher at Peak Agency, based in Oakland, California. Find him on Twitter at @daspitzberg.



11:00-11:30

Co-op Equity and Governance

Every cooperative has owners who invest money in their cooperative. This investment 'equity' is the financial foundation for every cooperative. This membership class of 'equity' investment can be very different for each cooperative, and is certainly very different than for traditional buying clubs or investor-owned businesses. The control of this equity and how a cooperative's excess profits are paid out in patronage are also unique to each cooperative. Rod Kelsay's presentation explains traditional approaches for the structure and control of various cooperative sectors. Additionally, Rod will cover the importance of how that member equity is controlled and the basics of cooperative governance. Rod will end on the five most important factors for a cooperative board to be successful.



Rod Kelsay is executive director of the Mid America Cooperative Council, a multi-state association of 100 cooperatives and supporters covering Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Its members represent agriculture supply and grain marketing, as well as the fruit, nut, sugar, and milk industry. Members also include genetics cooperatives, rural electric co-ops, food and housing co-ops, a laundry co-op, credit Unions, CoBank and Farm Credit associations. MACC focuses on cooperative education for employees, directors and member/owners.

11:30-12:00

What's Next?

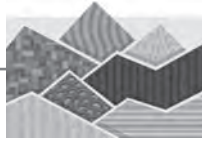
Interactive Discussion

William Nelson will lead ACE Institute Participants in a discussion of their highlights and take-home discoveries.

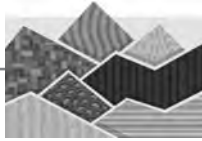
12:00-1:00

Lunch and Adjournment

Please take five minutes to complete an online evaluation of this Institute: 2017 ACE Institute Who's Who (as of July 11)



Notes and doodles.



Join ACE!

Education is an investment in people. Today, as yesterday, it plays an indisputable role in contributing to the innovation, strength and resilience of communities. Educators are aware of this and their work remains a priority in the world in which we operate. What would it be without education? The Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE), is a professional association working to address the various contemporary issues affecting this field of education, offering you the opportunity to enrich your work by exchanging with people who have the same objectives as you.

Organizations and individuals from Canada, the Caribbean and the United States are part of this association, which gives access to many organizations and people dedicated to education in the context of cooperation and cooperative enterprises. ACE provides its members with a forum in English, Spanish and French, highlighting educational programs and practices. ACE exists to strengthen cooperatives and the cooperative movement by promoting innovative educational responses to social and economic change. ACE also organizes an annual Institute on various educational themes. It is a must-attend event by many of its members. An ACE membership represents an excellent opportunity to contribute to cooperative education and the development of your organization as well as the cooperative movement itself throughout North America.

To Join ACE, go to our website: www.Ace.coop/membership

Online space for cooperative educators

ACE, in partnership with Grassroots Economic Organizing and the Toolbox for Education and Social Action, completed the pre-development phase of an education platform to, “elevate the cooperative economy by providing increased access to educational resources, conversations and supports.”

We thank more than 100 stakeholders who shaped this project, participating in focus groups and calls or responding to surveys, and defining what is needed and how the development of this space will proceed. In addition, thank you to the CHS Foundation for its generous support in 2016 and in 2017.

Goals for this Cooperative Educators' Network

- Build an online trilingual community of cooperative educators and cooperative/solidarity organizers, practitioners, and researchers that will be jointly managed by ACE, GEO and TESA
- Create a consolidated, curated, online repository of cooperative education materials that will ease the educator's/learner's journey by highlighting quality resources from partner organizations, co-ops and others
- Create an online community that is not just a library of resources or a static website, but a place for continued discussion and learning from peers about cooperative education

How Can You Participate?

- Submit a brief description of your institution's library/resource page. We will promote it, (sharing your hard work with a larger audience); or send us links to resources that we should feature.
- Become an active partner on a working group. (Contributions can include spending a couple of hours a month to help create the space, or serving on the steering committee.)
- Partner with us to provide additional resources for a more sophisticated technical foundation for the project.

Project contacts: Talk to Josh Davis from GEO or Jessica Gordon Nembhard during the ACE Institute or contact Erin Hancock erinhancock1@gmail.com 902 802 7897.

Thank you to our 2017 ACE Institute Sponsors

Agradecemos a los patrocinadores del ACE Institute del año 2017

Merci à nos commanditaires de l'Institut ACE pour l'année 2017



THE DENVER FOUNDATION



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