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Education student recognized by international co-op educators' association

Denver, Aug. 2, 2017 — A developer of the new Cooperative Empowerment Course is this year's recipient of the William Hlushko Award to Young Co-operative Educators from the Association of Cooperative Educators.

Nat Locke, who was recently honored at the ACE Institute held at Regis University in Denver, is a graduate student in education at Hamline University in Minneapolis.

In addition to creating the new program, Locke edited "Collecting Ourselves: A Cooperative Entrepreneurship Curriculum" and developed courses for USA Cooperative Youth Council. Locke chairs the USA Cooperative Youth Council's Education Working Group and co-founded a housing and a co-working cooperative.

Beyond creating resources, Locke is also a talented educator, says nominator, Emily Lippold Cheney, author of *Collecting Ourselves*. "Nat (uses) popular education methods and brings a sense of play to the learning process - often employing movement or games to foster greater retention of information by connecting body and mind."

"I love creating experiences for people to come together with common goals and aspirations," noted Locke about a career in education that promotes cooperation.

ACE also recognized Bill Stevenson of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center for his contributions to the ACE Institute. Community Wealth Building Network of Metro Denver, one of the most dynamic and innovative local economic and social development organizations in North America, was honored as a catalyst for social improvement. Luc Morin, executive director of Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario, received the Outstanding Contribution to Cooperative Education and Training Award for encouraging youth and new cooperators, especially in French-speaking Ontario, Canada.

For more than 60 years ACE has helped bridge geographic, cultural and language divides to share education about cooperation. Its 2017 Institute theme was Passing along Passion for Democratic Principles, focusing on new methods of education, platform (Internet) cooperatives, next generations and democratic processes. Helping support the conference were CoBank (presenting sponsor), the CHS Foundation, The Denver Foundation, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, La Coop fédérée of Quebec, the Ralph K. Morris Foundation, GROWMARK, Inc., Vancity credit union of Canada, The Cooperative Foundation, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and many more. Additional information is at www.ace.coop.

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