

Worth Noting ▼▼▼

FIFTH YEAR OF ONTARIO INTERNS START WORK AT CO-OP ORGANIZATIONS

ACE-award winning Ontario Co-operative Internship Program recently launched a new phase for 15 interns working in cooperative organizations across the province. The program is one of Ontario Co-operative Association's key Lifelong Co-operative Learning initiatives, and an important step to introduce and integrate young people into the co-op and credit union sectors. The program offers employers wage subsidies and provides skill-building sessions for interns. Now in its fifth year, On Co-op facilitates the program in partnership with the Canadian government's Youth Employment Strategy. To learn more about the program, contact [Audrey Aczel-Castillo](mailto:Audrey.Aczel-Castillo@ontario.coop) acastillo@ontario.coop, or 519.763.8271 ext. 24 or visit www.ontario.coop/Interns.

NEW MS SPECIALIZATION AT SNHU WILL DEVELOP A NEW GENERATION OF CO-OP SPECIALISTS

Boasting stars in cooperative education and development for many years, Southern New Hampshire University now has a specialization in cooperatives and credit unions within its School of Community Economic Development. Professor Christina Clamp said it has been a long term project for her and colleagues who have been teaching about cooperatives and credit unions for several years. Clamp expects the specialization will attract 10 students

each year based on interest shown in the co-op sector by previous students. Assistant Dean Anthony Poore says the program will further establish the school as a resource to the cooperative sector, and highlight cooperatives and credit unions to students as important tools for economic development. "Our MS degree program is historically intended to foster and develop generalist skills but some people want to dig a little bit deeper," he says. "This gives people more options to get exactly what they want."

The SNHU program differs from other cooperative studies in that MS students may design, develop and evaluate cooperative applications as part of the MS project degree requirement. Clamp says, "there are ways we can do more around co-op development where it builds off our strengths in community economic development and connections with the community." She adds that the specialization can help the movement look more critically at its best practices. Clamp believes the school's next step is to create a center where graduate students can help developing cooperatives and credit unions get started and strengthen their operations.

Applications for the CED (M.S.) Specialization in Credit Unions & Cooperatives are due in June. For more information, visit www.snhu.edu/ced, or contact Poore at 603-644-3123; a.poore@snhu.edu.

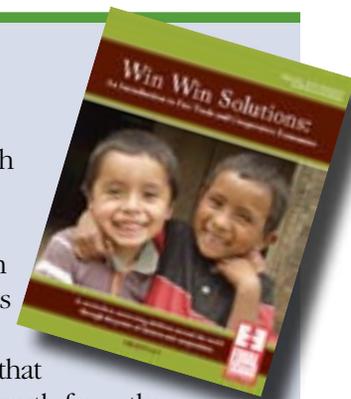
EQUAL EXCHANGE INTRODUCES FAIR TRADE CURRICULUM FOR YOUNG STUDENTS

After launching its school curriculum on Fair Trade this year, Massachusetts-based Equal Exchange has been busy answering media and teacher calls, says Kelsie Evans the cooperative's fundraising program coordinator. The worker cooperative launched a 120-page, four unit curriculum on equality in food systems, Fair Trade, cooperative economics and cooperative solutions. Teachers, parents and fundraisers order materials on line at www.equalexchange.coop/fundraiser for \$25. Each unit contains lessons suitable for different grade levels, from 4 to 9.

Equal Exchange funded the project entirely, and most of the writing was completed by an educational consultant working with an advisory committee comprised of teachers and

cooperators. The materials outline connections that can be made with national and state curricula. While there is no immediate plan to translate the materials into Spanish or French, Evans says that students can work in Spanish through a complementary pen pal program that matches American students with youth from the Dominican Republic, home of one of the cocoa farmer cooperatives featured in the curriculum.

The project grew out of the relationships Equal Exchange made with schools that sell Fair Trade products to raise funds. The cooperative found that parents and teachers wanted to use the fundraiser as an opportunity to teach youngsters about Fair Trade and conditions in the developing world, Evans says.



A Canadian option for a Fair Trade curriculum is available from Ottawa-based cooperative La Siembra's website: www.lasiembra.com