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To: Secondary and Post-secondary Instructors in Minnesota
From: Amy Fredregill, Vice President
Date: September 29, 2009
Re: **Co-op Month and new co-op curriculum cd-rom**

Did you know that October is Co-op Month? To help you teach your students about co-ops during October, we now have available for you a free co-op curriculum cd-rom for secondary and post-secondary students, thanks to a grant from the CHS Foundation. Some of you may recall the national co-op curriculum produced by USDA in the 1980s. This is the updated electronic version. We have also added a unit specific to co-ops in Minnesota to personalize the 7th unit national curriculum.

You and your students may not realize it, but co-ops are everywhere in every community in Minnesota in almost every industry. This cd-rom will talk about the different business industries co-ops operate in, ranging from credit unions to housing co-ops to food co-ops and ethanol plants, statistics from co-ops Minnesota, as well as the overview of the business structure of a co-op and much more. We've included many photos of local co-ops in MN to put a personal, local face on the businesses that you may or may not know are all around you.

An excel spreadsheet listing every co-op in Minnesota by town is included in the MN chapter of the cd-rom; if you want more information including contact info for co-ops in your local area, please call us. We'd encourage you to link up with the manager or other representative of a local co-op in your area who might be able to come and speak to your class. Parents or other relatives of your students may be employees of or serve on the boards of local co-ops. This would be a good activity for Co-op Month. There are many other activities you can use during October to teach cooperative concepts.

Keep in mind that we host an annual Youth Cooperative Leadership Conference; the 2010 dates are March 15-16. Photos and information from the March 2009 conference are available on our website. We also offer \$500 scholarships to high school students interested in pursuing careers in co-ops. Information about the conference and the scholarships is at cooperativenetwork.coop.

We will be periodically posting updates to the cd-rom to our website, as well as additional resource such as videos and radio interviews. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the cd-rom or if you have colleagues that would like a copy. They are free of charge, thanks to our grant from the CHS Foundation. I can be reached at amy.fredregill@cooperativenetwork.coop or 651-228-0214.