

Today's Presentation is on Co-operative Business Education: Research and Global Network



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- Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions
- Graduate Diploma in Co-operative Management
- Bilingual Certificate in Co-operative Management (French/English)

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Topics



- Study for 2014 International Summit Co-operatives: Impact & Relevance of Co-operative Business Education
- International Consortium of Leaders in Co-operative Business Education - a new, global network

Principle #5: Education, Training, and Information



Fact: Co-operatives would benefit from more people understanding and embracing the co-operative model – both within and outside the co-operative sector.

Co-operatives need to maintain and strengthen their unique identity while building successful co-operative enterprises.

Business education geared to the co-operative business model is part of the answer.

Co-operative Business Education Context



- Co-operatives are a business model, and are virtually absent from business school programs
- Many other business models are taught, rarely co-operatives
 - e.g. Introductory Business course textbooks
- Limited research on co-operatives
- Universities are showing leadership in management education
- There is interest in more programs and courses

Study for the 2014 Summit



Impact and Relevance of Co-operative Business Education

Boosting performance by learning about the co-operative model



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de l'Université de Sherbrooke

Mandate



To profile the existing co-operative business education programs and assess their impact and relevance.

Objectives

- To profile existing formal programs dedicated to co-operative business education (around the world);
- To gather data in order to analyze the impact and relevance of these programs on graduates and sector partners; and,
- To profile existing internal ‘co-operative business education’ programs within co-operative organizations

Highlights



Activities Underway:

- List of Partner Institutions meets the ‘at least 12 institutions’ requirement of the study
- Graduate and Sector Survey has been distributed in English, French, Spanish, and Italian
- Graduate Survey: 100 respondents to date

Next Phases:

- Interviews and focus groups
- Internal co-op program profiles
- Preliminary results in May
- « Expert » feedback sessions at CASC and ACE
- Final report will be presented at the 2014 Summit

Impact and Relevance

Implementing knowledge, demonstrating co-op difference



The Study's success hinges on our ability to:

- Demonstrate impact and relevance
- Determine what improvements are needed
- Articulate the role for co-operatives (Support? Promote?)

Saint Mary's Impact and Relevance Example:

One of our strengths is our co-operative sector partnerships. When a co-operative embraces co-operative business education for current and future managers and executives, the benefits are apparent.

“At Vancity Credit Union, we have supported students in the program since 2008 with impressive impact and influence on our employees and our members. A 2012 graduate, Mohamed Ladak, was promoted from a Regional Director to a Vice President position in an area that is new to him. This kind of outcome that should influence other organizations to support their employees to gain focused graduate level education on how to lead cooperatives and credit unions.”

- Ellen Pekeles, SVP Operations and former CMEC Board member

Global Network



International Consortium of Leaders in Co-operative Business Education

In development

Purpose



A common platform from which the “leaders” in business education for co-operatives (credit unions, mutuals):

- better understand each other’s programs
- collaborate where mutually beneficial
- avoid overlap where possible
- ensure program relevance to the needs of co-operative enterprises globally

Who?



Institutions offering programs focused on co-operative enterprise:

- Training and education along a spectrum: undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, and ongoing professional development.
- Program target audiences: managers, executives, or elected representatives (e.g. delegates and Boards).

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Why?



- Connections are fragmented.
- Awareness and support within the sector is quite low.
- Existing programs need more sector support.

Working together we can offer the best possible options to co-operatives for development of current and future co-operative managers.

Where is this going?



- Seeking more members
- Virtual engagement by teleconference

2014 Summit is a key opportunity to define the future:

- Face-to-face meeting in Quebec City on October 6, 2014
- Education area within trade show / exhibition
- Education Reception October 7, 2014



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