

IOWA INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATIVES

2515 University Blvd., Suite #104 • Ames, IA 50010 • (515) 292-2667

• info@iowainstitute.coop

Date: April 3, 2024
To: Iowa Institute for Cooperative Members
RE: 2024 Co-op Intern Day
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
Fareway Conference Center at the Cobblestone Inn & Suites
1900 Lakewood Drive, Boone, IA

We will be hosting our Summer Cooperative Intern Day on Wednesday, May 29th at the Fareway Conference Center in Boone. This one-day program is designed to help your interns better understand the cooperative business model and gain other insights and skills needed as they begin their careers.

We will begin the day with Cooperative 101. Dr. Bobby Martens is the IIC Endowed faculty member at Iowa State University. Dr. Martens will cover the historical roots of cooperatives, the various industries they participate in, what makes a cooperative like other businesses and what makes them unique. This will be an interactive session and the attendees are encouraged to participate and ask questions. This is a great opportunity for interns to understand the importance of the cooperative model, including why it has stood the test of time and how it plays an integral part in the US economy.

After a short break we have invited Mike Gaul, Director of Career Services at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University to speak with the group. As your interns advance through their college experience, soon they will be making a choice on their first real professional opportunity. There is so much more that goes into making that decision besides what the compensation will be. Mike is going to walk them through how to evaluate and take advantage of other parts of their compensation package including retirement, health care, career advancement opportunities and work environment. This workshop will provide interns with the knowledge and confidence to make an informed decision as they advocate for themselves.

After comments from Mr. Gaul, we will break for lunch. Following lunch, we have a networking exercise that will give interns a chance to meet new colleagues and add to their network. Networking opportunities such as this are a great way for interns to build a network of connections that they can draw upon throughout their career in the cooperative field.

After lunch we invited 3 cooperative employees to share their career stories. We have varied the tenure of the employees as well as their role, and they will share why they began their career at a cooperative and have decided during the course of their career to continue working at a cooperative. In addition, they will share why they enjoy their role and what makes working at a cooperative unique and different than other industries.

Our final speaker of the day is Aaron Putze with the Iowa Soybean Association. Aaron has a great passion for Iowa and the tremendous opportunities that young people have, to spend their career in Iowa. The attendees will be motivated and enthused as Aaron shares his optimistic view of the career and lifestyle opportunities Iowa offers young people just beginning their career.

At the conclusion of the event, we will strongly encourage the attendees to apply for the IIC scholarship this summer. Our Board committed once again to awarding at least 8 - \$2500 scholarships to individuals who spent their summer interning at a cooperative who is a member of IIC.

Please share this letter and agenda with your interns when they arrive this summer. Encourage them to take a day and learn more about cooperatives as they spend their summer with you. The registration for the program is \$175 per attendee and if you register 5 or more the cost is \$150 per attendee. Please complete the registration form and return it to us by Friday, May 24th so we can get an accurate count for lunch.

Your cooperative staff is welcome to join us for the day. There is no registration charge for your staff but they will need to be included on your registration form so that we have an accurate head count for meals.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact us at 515-292-2667 or email us at info@iowainstitute.coop

As always, thank you for your support and membership.

Sincerely,

Dave Holm
Executive Director

Agenda

2024 Co-op Intern Day

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Fareway Conference Center at the Cobblestone Inn & Suites

1900 Lakewood Drive, Boone, IA

8:30 - 9:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 - 9:15 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Staff

9:15 - 10:30 **Cooperative 101**
Dr. Bobby Martens, Iowa State University

10:30 - 10:45 **Break**

10:45 - Noon **Understanding Employee Benefits**
Mike Gaul – Career Services Director, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Iowa State University

Noon - 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00 - 1:30 **Networking Event**

1:30 - 2:30 **Panel Discussion – Why I Spent My Career at a Cooperative**
Evan Wielenga – Hull Cooperative
Charlie White – Innovative Ag Services
Erin Cambell – Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

2:30 - 2:45 **Break**

2:45 - 3:15 **Fields of Opportunity**
Aaron Putze, Information and Education Director, Iowa Soybean Association

3:15 - 3:30 **Closing Comments & Adjourn**

Registration Form

2024 Co-op Intern Day

Wednesday, May 29th, 2024

Fareway Conference Center at the Cobblestone Inn & Suites

1900 Lakewood Drive, Boone, IA

Cooperative Name: _____

Cooperative Town: _____

Please list the names of each person who will be attending.

If you or any of your staff would like to join us for the day or simply for the networking and lunch, there is no charge for you to attend. We would ask that you let us know how many of your staff will be attending so we have accurate count for lunch.

Name	Intern or Staff Title
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Registration fee is \$175.00 per intern for 1-4 persons from the same association.

Registration fee is \$150.00 per intern if sending 5 or more from the same association.

Please register by Friday, May 24, 2024. You email to info@iowainstitute.coop

Please mail a copy of the form with your check to:

IOWA INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATIVES
 2515 University Blvd., Suite #104, Ames, IA 50010
 Telephone: (515) 292-2667
 E-mail: info@iowainstitute.coop
 Website: www.iowainstitute.coop