When it comes to making economic and charitable contributions to their communities, the nation’s more than 40,000 cooperative businesses are industry leaders, setting the bar high for other types of businesses. Being owned largely by people who live and work in the communities they serve gives cooperatives a different perspective from businesses owned by distant investors.

These co-ops are motivated to serve their members, not outside investors. Nationwide these 40,000 cooperative businesses are sometimes an overlooked but thriving economic sector. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, and they operate in virtually every industry and range in size from small storefronts to Fortune 500 companies.

From the agricultural standpoint, nearly 3,000 farmer cooperatives account for 300,000 jobs nationwide and a total payroll of more than $8 billion. Some of the well-known farmer cooperatives include SunKist, Land O’ Lakes, CHS (Cenex Harvest States), Farm Credit Services of America, and AGP.

In Nebraska, farmer-owned cooperatives also contribute heavily to the economy of our state. For instance:

- 359 branch locations in Nebraska
- 26 branch locations out of state
- 5,000+ cooperative employees (full and part-time)
- 66,000+ total voting members of co-ops
- Total sales of local supply/marketing co-ops: $6.6 billion
- Total assets of co-ops: $2.5 billion
- Employee payroll (w/ benefits): $211.2 million
- Investment in new equipment and facilities: $91.3 million
- Patronage refunds in past year: $82.2 million
- Equity/estate redemption in past year: $10.8 million

As you can see, cooperatives in Nebraska are vital to our economy. There are many outstanding career opportunities for young people wishing to pursue a career in the rural portions of our state. The Nebraska Cooperative Council represents these businesses that are focused on production agriculture, and we encourage you to explore what could be a very rewarding career in one of Nebraska’s farmer-owned cooperatives. Then you too will understand The Cooperative Advantage.

Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation

Scholarship Program
in Honor of Dr. Michael S. Turner

for the 2010-11 Academic Year

One $650 scholarship at Chadron State College to an upperclass student majoring or minoring in agribusiness.

For sons/daughters of a parent/legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior three (3) years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for the past five (5) years. Scholarship(s) will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or disability.

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM:

Contact Heather Crofutt in Financial Aid at 432-6320, or
Go to the Nebraska Cooperative Council’s website at www.nebr.coop

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 15, 2010
Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
IN HONOR OF MICHAEL S. TURNER

2010-11 APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2010

[An electronic version of this form is available at www.nebr.coop]

Student Name: __________________________________________

College Student ID#: __________________________

Declared Major/Minor: ________________________________________________________________________

Class Status for the 2010/11 Academic Year (circle one):

UNL: FR   SO   JR   SR  NCTA: 1st Year   2nd Year  Chadron: SO   JR   SR

Permanent Address (Street, City, St, Zip):

Phone: _______________________________  Email: _______________________________

Can you be reached at your permanent address/phone/email over the summer?  Yes   No

If no, please give summer address/phone/email below:

Parents/Legal Guardians' Name: _____________________________________________________________

Parents/Legal Guardians' Address (Street, City, St, Zip): _______________________________________

Name and Location of Local Cooperative Membership:  # of Years

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Name and Town of Hometown Newspaper: _____________________________________________________

High School Attended: ______________________________________________________________________

Leadership Activities/Outstanding Achievements in High School and/or College (membership and offices held in organizations, awards, honor societies, etc) [Attach a separate sheet of paper if needed.]

Career Plans:

Return completed application forms by April 15, 2010 to:

Dann Husmann, Assoc Dean  Mary Ann Mercer, Financial Aid  Heather Crofutt, Financial Aid
College of Ag Sciences & Nat’l Res  NE College of Technical Agriculture  Chadron State College
PO Box 830702  RR 3, Box 23A  1000 Main Street
UNL East Campus  Curtis, NE 69025-9525  Chadron, NE 69337
Lincoln, NE 68583-0702  Ph: 800/328-7847  Fax: 308/367-5203
Ph: 402/472-2201  Email: mmmercr1@unl.edu
FAX: 402/472-7911

If you have questions about the scholarship program, please contact Ed or Deb at the Nebraska Cooperative Council (ph: 402/475-6555, email: edw@nebr.coop or debm@nebr.coop)