

## *Program: Cooperative Development Forum*

*"Cooperative Business Structure for  
Small Business Owners"*

**One Day Program Presented**

on

**Thursday, April 29, 2010**

**Fairlawn, Ohio**

at the

Akron/Fairlawn Hilton

3180 West Market Street, 44333

(Phone: 330-867-5000)

*The "Cooperative Development Forum" will provide you with the tools to identify your next fundamental steps for cooperative business development. The program will compare and contrast various business models. You will have the opportunity to talk with people who have actually started a successful co-op. Clear answers to the following questions will be provided:*

- What are Cooperatives?
- Who owns them?
- How do they function?
- How to establish your business as a Cooperative
- Strengths & weakness of Co-ops versus other business structures
- Common pitfalls to establishing a new coop business
- Raising equity
- Meet with cooperative members who will tell their cooperative's start up and/or operating story

### **Speakers/Presenters Include:**

**Tom Snyder, Program Director of the Ohio Cooperative Development Center** *at The Ohio State University, Piketon Campus.*

**Roy Messing, Program Coordinator of the Northern Ohio Center** *at Kent State University.*

**Rod Kelsay, Executive Director of Mid American Cooperative** *The council is an association of 105 cooperatives that covers the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.*

**Margaret Lund, Cooperative Business Consultant,** *with over 15 years of providing technical and funding assistance for developing cooperatives.*

**Scott Bagley, Program Director of National Network of Forest Practitioners,** *which supports cooperative and other business development in the forest industry nationwide.*

**Alicia Cordell, Human Resource Manager of Casa Nueva Restaurant in Athens, Ohio,** *a cooperatively owned business that has been sustainable in a college campus setting for over 20 years.*

# Program Agenda

- 1:00 pm Registration
- 1:30 **"Welcome and Introduction to Cooperatives"**  
*-Program Overview*  
*-Definition and Brief History of Cooperative Cooperation*  
*-Cooperative Principles*
- 2:00 **"Co-ops 101"**
- 3:45 Break
- 4:00 **"Concurrent Roundtable Discussions"**  
Three thirty minute roundtable discussions to choose from:  
*- Purchasing/Health Care Cooperatives*  
*- Employee Owned Restaurant Cooperative*  
*- Cooperating amongst Cooperatives*  
*- Starting an Employee Owned Cooperative*
- 5:30 Session adjourns.
- We encourage continued discussion and networking between the attendees and speakers/presenters. We will help organize a dinner session (not covered within the forum) at a local restaurant.

***Sponsored by: Northern Ohio Cooperative Development Center and the Mid America Cooperative Council***

Contact Roy Messing for details at 330 672-3028 or [rmessin2@kent.edu](mailto:rmessin2@kent.edu), or Ashley Hernandez at 330 672-0836 or [ahernan7@kent.edu](mailto:ahernan7@kent.edu). The Akron/Fairlawn Hilton's website is [www.akronhilton.com](http://www.akronhilton.com).

# Registration Form: "Cooperative Start-up Forum"

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Participants**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

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## **Registration Details**

There are no costs to participate in this program. We do require attendee registration to make the necessary arrangements with the hotel.

Please complete the registration form and FAX to 330-672-4063; mail the completed registration to Attn: Roy Messing, OEOC, Kent State University, 113 McGilvrey Hall, Kent, OH 44242.; or email Roy Messing with your registration at [rmessin2@kent.edu](mailto:rmessin2@kent.edu).

Please call or contact Roy Messing with any questions at: [rmessin2@kent.edu](mailto:rmessin2@kent.edu), 330 672-3028 or Ashley Hernandez at: [ahernan7@kent.edu](mailto:ahernan7@kent.edu), 330 672-0836