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Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership Summer Institute

May 13 – 16, 2024

Columbia, Missouri

ABOUT SUMMER INSTITUTE

Summer Institute is GICL's flagship program, celebrating its 52nd offering in 2024! It is a forum for the exchange of ideas and knowledge, bringing together leaders from the nation's rich landscape of agricultural cooperatives to explore their commonalities and uniqueness as they delve into the challenges and opportunities facing today's cooperatives. Summer Institute's program has roots in the novel "Life Cycle Framework" and uses it to explore both the fundamental dimensions and nuanced evolution of cooperative organizations and cooperative health.

Participants of Summer Institute are hand-selected and represent diversity in cooperative roles and professional backgrounds. Together, participants explore what makes cooperatives unique from other business forms and how those are leveraged to sustain long-lived, successful organizations that serve our nation's producers. Summer Institute participants become part of GICL's legacy of developing and sharing knowledge to help improve cooperative performance, foster "cooperative genius," and support each participant's personal career growth.

AGENDA

Mon, May 13	Late afternoon welcome reception
Tue, May 14	Daily session
Wed, May 15	Daily session
Thu, May 16	Daily session, program concludes by 3:00 p.m.

**Lodging and most meals are included in the cost of registration*

TOPICS AND APPROACH

The overarching goal of Summer Institute is to equip participants with an understanding and appreciation of cooperatives' foundational purposes and principles in the context of historical needs and to explore the power and adaptability of the cooperative model today as emerging challenges and



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opportunities are identified. A combination of classroom-style instruction, case studies, small-group discussions, and guest lectures from industry leaders are utilized.

The core topics of Summer Institute include:

1. **Cooperative History:** A historical perspective of U.S. agricultural cooperatives including producers' initial market challenges and the landmark legislative and legal backdrops (e.g., Capper Volstead, New Deal) that encouraged and transformed cooperative evolution.
2. **Cooperative Structure:** An exploration of marketing, supply, and multi-purpose cooperatives in the context of their differing governance structures and the "boundaries" of the cooperative as a firm within producers' value chains.
3. **Cooperative Capitalization and Finance:** Considers the principle of "economic participation by members" through a cooperative ownership and value-generation lens, including patronage and equity mechanisms and philosophical views of capitalization by members.
4. **Today's Cooperative Landscape:** A function-centric "workshop" of key internal and external challenges facing cooperatives utilizing the "Life Cycle Framework".

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Summer Institute program explores the specific needs and challenges facing agricultural cooperatives and their members. Sessions are designed to enhance the participant's leadership and strategic thinking within the cooperative context. While we primarily rely on and respect each cooperative's assessment of who within their talent pool is ready to attend Summer Institute, individuals who meet the following criteria will feel prepared to contribute fully and gain the most from Summer Institute:

Experience Level: At least two years of experience working at a cooperative is recommended, giving participants a foundational understanding of "cooperative issues" that arise and a sense of how the cooperative is different from a non-cooperative business.

Career Stage: The Summer Institute program is designed for talented individuals who show exceptional promise and potential within the cooperative community, and who have taken on (or soon will) significant responsibilities indicative of those at the manager, director, or higher levels.