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| Everything Co-op – Press Release |
| **For Info/Show Bookings: Pat Thornton – 202-262-6156** |



**Judy Ziewacz**

**William Nelson**

**Daniel T. Kelley**

**Dr. Ann Hoyt**

# **Everything Co-op Releases Interviews of 2015 Cooperative Hall of Fame Heroes**

Washington, DC, June 9, 2015: All of the 2015 Cooperative Hall of Fame heroes were interviewed on Everything Co-op during the past two months, and are now available as podcasts. If you missed the interviews with William J. Nelson, Dr. Ann Hoyt, Judy Ziewacz and Daniel Kelley, you can now listen to them in their entirety online. Links to the interviews are shown below, and are available immediately. Tune in Thursday, June 11 to hear a rebroadcast of William J. Nelson’s interview at www.woldcnews.com.

Induction into the Cooperative Hall of Fame is the highest honor that the U.S. cooperative community bestows on the extraordinary men and women who have made genuinely heroic contributions in support of the cooperative form of enterprise. The Cooperative Hall of Fame is administered by the Cooperative Development Foundation, the 501 (c) (3) non-profit affiliate of the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA CLUSA).

Individually and collectively, the 2015 honorees have enhanced and advanced cooperative enterprises, empowered people through their association with cooperatives, and contributed to the broader acceptance of the cooperative model in the United States and around the world. Vernon Oakes, the host of Everything Co-op was honored to have them as guests on his show. You can listen to the interviews by following the links after each comment below:

* William Nelson spoke about his introduction to cooperatives through a patronage received for purchasing a tire while attending college. Ironically, to date, his CHS Foundation has given it's members more than $500 million back in patronage. Nelson has been instrumental in developing the CHS University Initiative on Cooperative Education, a program that increases the understanding of the cooperative business model through education, development and practical experience. <http://chirb.it/CDCedH>
* Dr. Ann Hoyt spoke about the importance of education of cooperative managers. Her emphasis on education led to the launch of an intensive education program for food cooperative managers, the Cooperative Management Institute (CMI). She has trained several thousand cooperative and non-profit directors and managers throughout the country, and is the creator of a video-based director training program for cooperatives. She also discussed how a cooperative bakery, 'Pasticceria Giotto', she visited in a prison in Italy, has helped to reduce the recidivism rate in that prison, and the need for such programs in America. <http://chirb.it/zc9aLB>
* Judy Ziewacz, the co-creator of the dot coop domain name simply stated that while others have planted the seeds, she has been the person to harvest and grow them. Her incredible capacity as a strategist has resulted in cross-sectoral coalitions that have created critical infrastructure for the co-op community domestically, and internationally. <http://chirb.it/sFghO5>
* Daniel Kelley discussed how cooperatives have saved the farming industry at several different stages of development. Most recently, he retired as board chairman and president of the agriculture supply cooperative GROWMARK, Inc. However, he also discussed his long-term commitment to investing in the Agricultural Leadership Foundation, to groom the next generation of cooperators. http://chirb.it/GCdbpP

Everything Co-op is a radio show that features leaders in the cooperative movement who have found ways to use coops to solve community problems. The program airs on WOL 1450 AM, Radio One’s premiere station, on Thursdays from 10:30 – 11:30 am Eastern Daylight Time, and is sponsored by National Cooperative Bank, (NCB). To receive notices of guest appearances on the show, send an email to pthornton@patynacommunications.com

Vernon Oakes is the host of Everything Co-op. Vernon is President of Oakes Management Inc. As President, he has renovated and managed his own properties, and those owned by other entities since 1985. He is also the immediate Past President of the National Association of Housing Cooperatives, and serves on several boards to advance the interests of cooperatives. He is also a consummate advocate for the cooperative business model, and uses his show, Everything Cooperative to advance the initiatives of others in the cooperative community.