The Northeast Cooperative Council encourages students to expand their career aspirations as they learn about cooperative-structured businesses through internships provided by NECC member cooperatives. Recognition includes a cash award presented at the NECC Leaders Forum and the opportunity to meet premier leaders of cooperatives headquartered or doing business in the Northeastern United States.

SUNY Alfred students and faculty attend the Upcoming Leaders Breakfast at the NECC Leaders Forum.

The Northeast Cooperative Council Cooperative Internship Recognition Award is supported by the Cooperative Development Institute, Shelburne Falls, MA through funds from the NECC Cooperative Leadership Fund administered by the Cornell University Foundation. While our work is in alignment with the mission of the Cooperative Development Institute, the content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Cooperative Development Institute or Cornell University.

AgChoice Farm Credit, ACA
Agri-Mark, Inc.
CHS, Inc.
CoBank, ACB
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairy One Cooperative
Genex Cooperative, Inc.
Farm Credit East, ACA
Land O’Lakes, Inc.
Lowville Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
NYS Rural Electric Association
O-AT-KA Milk Products Cooperative, Inc.
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery
Stamford Farmers Cooperative
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Yankee Farm Credit, ACA

NECC members recognize the need for new members and employees willing to lead cooperative businesses in the future as they engage in the global economy, embrace social change, and adapt to changing policies and emerging issues and opportunities. The NECC Cooperative Internship Recognition Award (CIRA) recognizes outstanding students who successfully complete an internship with a NECC member cooperative.

Prizes of $1,000 each will be awarded to no more than five individuals who successfully complete an internship with a NECC cooperative member in good standing.

Eligibility
- Must successfully complete an internship with a NECC member cooperative between January 1 and November 15
- Must be a college junior, senior or graduate student with a minimum GPA of 3.0/4.0 studying in an accredited college in New England, New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania
- Demonstrate successful completion of coursework in one of the following: production agriculture, business, finance, marketing, food science, agriculture and food policy
- Complete and submit application

Application Process
The application will reflect the internship experience in the calendar year preceding year of the award.
- The application packet includes a current college transcript, faculty recommendation, and internship supervisor recommendation.
- The applicant will provide a letter of interest to the CIRA Review Committee that includes the following:
  - Short and long-term goals
  - Description of the internship and how it contributes to career goals
  - Life experiences (employment, leadership positions, extra-curricular activities, course work, etc. that contributes to career goals
- Submit application on or before December 1

Announcement
Award announcements will be made January 15th. Recipients will attend the NECC Leaders Forum and Annual Meeting as guests of the NECC. They will prepare a poster for display at the Leaders Forum and viewable online. They will provide brief remarks about their internship experience at the Leaders Forum.

Applications available at Northeast Cooperative Council website:
http://cooperatives.aem.cornell.edu/necc/index.php