

*"Promoting Cooperative Education, Internships and other Experiential Learning"*

## Mission Statement

The Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association is a non-profit organization of employers, educators, and interested individuals and/or groups from the Midwest region which seeks to:

1. Promote an understanding of the significance and values of cooperative education, internships and other experiential learning;
2. Strengthen the functioning of cooperative education, internships and other experiential learning; and
3. Provide a source of information about cooperative education, internships and other experiential learning to all interested persons.



## State Organizations

In addition to the MCEIA regional organization, some states maintain their own organizations, consisting of employers and educators interested in cooperative education, internships and other experiential learning. State organizations assist in membership activities and sponsor various programs of interest.

## Awards and Recognition

The following annual awards were established to recognize students, educators, employers and outstanding service:

*Student Scholarships*  
*Employer of the Year*  
*E. Sam Sovilla Educator of the Year*  
*Donald Hunt Lifetime Achievement*  
*Research Grants*  
*Awards of Excellence*  
*Best Practices*

## Annual Conference

The MCEIA annual conference is held each fall to explore current issues in the field. Guest speakers, as well as cooperative education and internship practitioners, conduct sessions. The site of the conference changes each year to locations throughout the Midwest. Visit [www.mceia.org](http://www.mceia.org) for information regarding the upcoming conference.



## Historical Perspective of MCEIA

How it happened... On Thursday, October 23, 1975, sixty-five interested persons met at Dearborn, Michigan, and officially founded the Midwest Cooperative Education Association. Over one-third of those attending the meeting were representatives from business and industry. Sixty-two persons from Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana had paid dues even before the organization was officially founded. The time was right for industry and education in the industrial heartland of the United States to join hands in a new common adventure – the founding of a professional association to promote the growth and qualitative advancement of cooperative education. The original goals of MCEIA were clear and simple:

- *Broaden the interpretation and understanding of cooperative education.*
- *Strengthen the functioning of cooperative education among employers, within educational institutions, among the general public and with various branches of government.*
- *Provide a ready source of information about cooperative education to all constituent populations.*
- *Foster strong working relationships and interchange of ideas with national, state and local groups which promote cooperative education.*

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## Benefits of Membership

- Membership in a regional organization from the Midwest with a defined focus on cooperative education, internships and other experiential learning
- Numerous opportunities to develop a system of support among educators and employers with similar goals
- Access to information about new trends and current practices in the field, enabling professionals to remain on the forefront of new developments
- Participation in MCEIA activities; such as conferences and drive-sessions

## How to Join MCEIA

Visit [www.mceia.org](http://www.mceia.org) and click on the "How to Join" tab, located at the top of the website. From here, please click on "Member Info" to get more information or to join.



## WISDOM Diversity Resource

The "MCEIA W.I.S.D.O.M. Diversity Resource" website will provide links related to career development that will hopefully be a useful tool to both the industry recruiter/human resource person, and the college career services director/advisor. The information will be outlined under each of the mentioned diversity areas.

## BENEFITS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION & INTERNSHIPS:

(Taken from Michigan Council for Internships & Cooperative Education)

### Employer

- The *cost of recruiting* CE & I students, averages **16 times less** than recruiting recent college graduates
- Almost **50%** of CE & I students *accept permanent positions* with their host employers. The *retention* of college graduates after five years of employment is **30% greater** for graduates that took advantage of CE & I
- The percentage of *minority group members* hired is **twice as high** among CE & I students as among recent college graduates, thus assisting CE & I employers in meeting "Equal Employment Opportunity" objectives
- CE & I programs supply students with *new ideas* and *fresh approaches*

### Educational Institution

- Work experience provides an extension of classroom experience, thus *integrating theory and practice*
- Programs *build positive relationships* between schools and businesses and provide faculty members with *access to knowledgeable people* working in a variety of fields
- Provide schools with additional business and industry *training facilities* that would otherwise be difficult to finance

### Student

- Programs *enhance the market-ability* of graduates by providing *on-the-job training*
- Experiences *develop overall maturity* of students by *strengthening resourcefulness, problem-solving skills, self-confidence, self-discipline, and sense of responsibility*
- Students *develop human relations skills* through interaction in career settings