



For Immediate Release

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Seventh Annual Vermont Employee Ownership Conference Scheduled for June 5th

Burlington, Vermont (May 1, 2009) — The Seventh Annual Vermont Employee Ownership Conference will take place on June 5, 2009, at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. The full-day conference features 14 workshops from introductory sessions for those exploring the idea of employee ownership to technical sessions designed for experienced employee-owned companies.

Full conference details and online registration are available at www.veoc.org. For more information, call 802-861-6611 or email info@veoc.org.

This year's keynote address will be given by prominent political journalist and bestselling author William Greider. Greider is national affairs correspondent for *The Nation* and has written for numerous periodicals including the *Washington Post* and *Rolling Stone*. He has also served as a correspondent for six *Frontline* documentaries on PBS. Greider is the author of the national bestsellers *One World, Ready or Not*, *Secrets of the Temple*, *Who Will Tell the People*, and *The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to A Moral Economy*. His most recent book is *Come Home, America: The Rise and Fall (and Redeeming Promise) of our Country*.

According to Greider, "Everyone who works, whether in the front office or on the assembly line, deserves to "own their work" – that is, the right to exercise personal responsibility for what they do and enjoy mutual respect and the capacity to contribute and collaborate in important decision-making within the firm."

"The shift to more cooperative and respectful workplaces can yield economic gain for the nation. As numerous academic studies have shown and outstanding companies already understand, collaborative relationships between top management and the workforce are more productive and profitable. The profits are shared because the workers are also the owners. The concept may seem alien to many, but its core assumptions are very American: a practical belief that equality and liberty can be present in our daily lives."

Greider will also be the special guest at a pre-conference Reception and Book Signing, taking place from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 4th at the Burlington Boathouse. The event is free and open to the public.

John Abrams will be giving this year's closing remarks. Abrams is the co-founder and president of South Mountain Company, an employee-owned design, building, and renewable energy company committed to responsible business practice. He is also the author of *Companies We Keep: Employee Ownership and the Business of Community and Place*.

About the VEOC

The Vermont Employee Ownership Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and fostering employee ownership. The group's goals are to broaden capital ownership, deepen employee participation, retain local ownership of businesses and the jobs they support, increase living standards for working families, and stabilize communities. VEOC works directly with owners interested in selling their business to their employees, employee groups interested in purchasing a business, and entrepreneurs who wish to start a company with broadly-shared ownership. For more information, visit www.veoc.org.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact Jon Crystal at 802-861-6611.