

Young Credit Union Professionals Honored at World Conference

Dublin, Ireland—Five young credit union professionals stepped into the spotlight as the 2006 WOCCU Young Credit Union People (WYCUP) award winners at the closing session of the World Credit Union Conference in Dublin, Ireland, July 30. Including Nelson & District Credit Union Manager, Tom Atkins.



WYCUP winners Darcy Mykytyshyn, Shoba Gunasekaran, Anne-Marie Coffey, Alison Carr and Tom Atkins congratulated by WOCCU CEO Pete Crear, Board Chairman Gary Plank and WYCUP Committee Chairman Grzegorz Bierecki.

Earning this year's prestigious WYCUP award with their proven dedication and enthusiasm for the credit union movement were: Tom Atkins, Training and Youth Services Program Development Manager, Nelson and District Credit Union, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada; Alison Carr, Vice President of Corporate Development, Point West Credit Union, Portland, Oregon, USA; Anne-Marie Coffey, Board Director, Youth Officer and National Youth Committee Member, Enfield Credit Union, Ltd., Enfield, Ireland; Shoba Gunasekaran, General Manager, Telecoms Credit Co-operative, Ltd., Singapore; and Darcy Mykytyshyn, Vice President of Corporate Development, Community Credit Union, Ltd., Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.

Tom states that "it was a great honor to be recognized at the international level by credit union executives from around the world. The conference allowed me to network and discuss issues facing credit unions from all over the world. Obviously, this opportunity would not have been possible without the support of Nelson & District Credit Unions Board and Management team; I look forward to representing our community credit union at the 2007 event in Calgary.



WYCUP nominee Deeynar León, FENECOAC (Guatemala), participating in the networking session.

This is the sixth straight year that WOCCU has organized the WYCUP scholarship program for credit union professionals and volunteers under the age of 35. In conjunction with the World Credit Union Conference, WYCUP nominees participate in networking and social events to share and learn about worldwide credit union issues. From this group, five winners are selected each year based on submitted application materials that support the individual's contributions to the credit union movement and potential to influence the international community. WOCCU awards WYCUP winners a trip to the following year's World Credit Union Conference. Members of the 2006 WYCUP selection committee were Board Chairman Grzegorz Bierecki (Poland), Mark Bailey (Ireland), Síncrito Cifuentes (Guatemala), Neil McDonald (New Zealand) and Catherine Roberts (USA).

The 2006 participants included 35 nominees from 10 countries: Three of last year's winners attended the 2006 conference free of charge and assisted with the WYCUP program: Tina Hall, Verity Credit Union (USA); Karla Herrera, FENACOAC (Guatemala); and Sandra Phillips, Powell River Credit Union Financial Group (Canada).