



# Center for Cooperatives

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Free webinar:**

## **Cooperatives and Business Succession Strategies**

**Date: July 19, 2018**

**Time: 12 - 1 p.m. CDT**

**[Register for the July 19  
Webinar](#)**

Over the next two decades, an estimated 70% of privately held businesses will change hands, many as a result of retiring baby boomers. Who will take over these businesses, and will they remain in their communities?

This webinar will look at the conversion of businesses to cooperatives owned by the employees as one effective method for retaining businesses, jobs, and wealth in local communities.

**Who should attend?** Business owners, economic and community development professionals, cooperative developers, and interested community members.

---

---

## ***PRESENTERS:***

### **Rob Brown, Director, Business Ownership Solutions, Cooperative Development Institute**

Rob Brown is the Director of [Business Ownership Solutions \(BOS\)](#), a program of the [Cooperative Development Institute](#) that promotes employee ownership and works with business owners and their employees to facilitate worker cooperative transitions. He was part of the advisory group that successfully converted three retail businesses into the [Island Employee Cooperative](#), which is now the largest worker co-op in Maine and the second largest in New England. Rob participates in several national networks promoting the strategy of employee ownership conversion and best practices in the field, including as a [2015 DAWI Cooperative Developer Fellow](#) and as a member of the [Workers to Owners Collaborative](#). Rob studied economic development policy at the University of Maine and College of the Atlantic, and has a diverse background in policy research, advocacy and organizing, and non-profit and for-profit business development.



### **Josh Stolzenburg, President and CEO, North Wind Renewable Energy Cooperative**

Josh Stolzenburg founded North Wind Renewable Energy, LLC in 2007 in order to get cleaner energy installed on utility electric grids in Wisconsin. In 2017, he led the transition from an LLC to a worker owned cooperative. North Wind, located in Stevens



Point, WI, employs 15 people, of which ten are currently members.

**Courtney Berner, Executive Director, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives**

Courtney Berner joined the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives in 2011 and served as a cooperative development specialist until assuming the role of executive director in January 2018. As the executive director, she develops courses, conferences, and other educational programs and works closely with the Center's faculty director on the Center's strategic direction.



Courtney has provided support to new and established cooperatives of all types and in a range of industries including agriculture, grocery, manufacturing, energy, healthcare, and forestry.

Her areas of expertise include business development, cooperative finance and governance, and innovative uses of the cooperative model.

Courtney writes and speaks frequently on the cooperative business model.

**Upcoming webinars in the series:**

This webinar is the third in a series that explores cooperative solutions to challenges in rural and urban communities.

- Cooperatives and Community Infrastructure Needs: September 19, 2018
- Cooperatives and Community-Owned Businesses: October 17, 2018

All webinars will be held at 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Central Time.

**Webinars are recorded, and are available on the UWCC [website](#).**

This webinar series is made possible through a USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant.

---