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## **Employee Ownership Foundation Awards Prize to National Essay Contest Winner**

**April 6, 2011 (Washington, DC)** – The Employee Ownership Foundation is proud to announce Juan Mier, a student at the University of California San Diego Rady School of Management, as the recipient of a \$500 prize for a winning essay on ESOPs (employee stock ownership plans) entered as part of the Foundation for Enterprise Development’s (FED) national essay contest --- *Creating Wealth by Sharing Wealth<sup>TM</sup>*. The contest, sponsored by the FED, is the first ever multi-university essay contest of its kind to focus thinking on business strategies incorporating employee ownership.

“Congratulations to Mr. Mier for his winning work in this contest. The Employee Ownership Foundation is pleased to be able to award this prize for his thoughtful essay on employee ownership,” noted Employee Ownership Foundation President, J. Michael Keeling. “Seeing work such as this done on the university level is exciting for the Foundation and the employee ownership community as a whole.”

For a complete list of the *Creating Wealth by Sharing Wealth<sup>TM</sup>* essay contest winners, please visit FED’s website at <http://www.fed.org/education-essay-contest>.

The Employee Ownership Foundation supports research, education and public awareness of programs that will increase the level of understanding and appreciation of the benefits of employee ownership and increase the number of employees who have access to this benefit. For more information, visit: <http://www.employeeownershipfoundation.org>. The Employee Ownership Foundation is The ESOP Association’s affiliated 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting employee ownership.

Founded in 1978, The ESOP Association represents over 1,400 ESOP companies who believe that employee ownership will improve American competitiveness, increase productivity through greater employee participation and strengthen our free enterprise economy. For more information: <http://www.esopassociation.org>.

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