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**Employee Ownership Fellows Chosen by Rutgers University –
*Employee Ownership Foundation Provides Grant Money
for Fellowship Program***

February 25, 2009 (Washington, DC) – The Employee Ownership Foundation, in collaboration with Rutgers University, is proud to announce the recipients of two employee ownership fellowships. The two Rutgers Employee Ownership Fellowship winners are: Professor Peter Thompson and Professor Yuan Jiang. This is the first time the Employee Ownership Foundation has been involved with a fellowship program in an academic setting.

The goal of the Employee Ownership Foundation’s fellowship grant is to provide grants to scholars who are doing research in the employee ownership field and to identify the next generation of scholars in the employee ownership field.

Professor Thompson was granted a fellowship for his innovative laboratory on behavioral economics studies of employee ownership. He currently teaches at the University of Illinois in the College of Business Administration and completed his Ph.D. on employee ownership. He holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois. With this grant, the hope is that Professor Thompson’s laboratory work will help to enhance the field of behavioral economics with insight into employee ownership. This laboratory is believed to be the first of its kind.

Professor Jiang was granted a fellowship to research the question – “Do various forms of shared compensation – for example: ESOPs, profit sharing, gain sharing, team-based rewards – enhance employees cooperating with each other to achieve their collective goals?” He received his BA from a mainland Chinese University and was a lecturer at Sun Yat-Sen University before joining Rutgers University. He received an MA from the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers and is currently completing his Ph.D. in Human Resources Management at Rutgers where he is also a professor.

“The world of employee ownership is changing,” commented Foundation President, J. Michael Keeling. “It was not so long ago that we dreamed of this happening, employee ownership research being conducted at the university level. We are pleased to be able to assist Rutgers University in the creation of the first ever Employee Ownership Fellowships at the University. It is a very exciting day for the Foundation and the employee ownership field at large.”

The Employee Ownership Foundation is The ESOP Association’s affiliated 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting employee ownership. For additional information visit

www.employeeownershipfoundation.org and www.esopassociation.org.

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.

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