

The mission of the NCEO is to make employee ownership thrive by helping make employee ownership better through research, events, peer networking, publications, toolkits, our website, and everything else we do to generate and disseminate best practices.

But helping employee ownership thrive is also about making employee ownership bigger. More people should be employee-owners because employee ownership improves the lives of workers regardless of their socioeconomic status. It gives them an equity stake in the companies where they work while rooting businesses in communities. Millions of companies and their employees could benefit from employee ownership, and the decision to make that happen takes place when the right person gets the right message at the right time.

The right message works only if the right messenger delivers it, and that is where the state centers for employee ownership come in. There is no substitute for a local connection, and no one is doing locally rooted employee ownership as well as the Employee Ownership Expansion Network (EOX).

That is why the NCEO and the EOX decided to coordinate our efforts in a formal collaboration. Working together is the best way to make more employee ownership, so we are announcing, today, the NCEOX Initiative, a collaboration between the NCEO and the EOX.

Making employee ownership bigger is EOX's one and only mission. It helped launch 12 state employee ownership centers since 2019, and its network of state centers now covers more than 70% of the US population. The EOX state centers have reached thousands of people, and their staff and volunteers know community leaders, bankers, economic development agencies, advisors, journalists, university faculty, and legislators. States with state centers outperform the national average in creation of new employee-owned companies.

For 42 years, the NCEO's national membership, exceptional staff, and deep resources have helped expand employee ownership. Let's imagine what happens when EOX's local, in-person network of professionals and volunteers makes maximum use of the NCEO's research, stories, volunteers, and stature. That's the right message, the right data, and the right messenger, with an on-the-ground presence to maximize the chances of that message landing at just the right moment.

Visit the NCEOX Initiative online at www.nceo.org/nceox for updates and opportunities as our community works together to expand employee ownership.