

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Ruthann Varosi
Extra Credit Union
Phone: 586.276.3151
Email: rvarosi@extracreditunion.org

Extra Credit Union receives statewide awards for life-changing debt consolidation program, and youth advocacy efforts and leadership

WARREN, Mich.—The staff members at Extra Credit Union think the financial institution’s Debt Crusher Debt Consolidation Program is the best around. They also claim their School and Community Relations Coordinator is like no other. And they even have the awards to back themselves up.

The staff at Extra Credit Union is proudly celebrating two prestigious, statewide awards—the 2017 Michigan Credit Union League’s (MCUL) Innovation Award for its [life-changing Debt Crusher Debt Consolidation Program](#), as well as Extra Credit Union’s School and Community Relations Coordinator, Ashley Fordyce, being named the MCUL’s 2017 Youth Advocate of the Year. The Debt Crusher Program and Fordyce will be recognized and presented with the awards at the MCUL’s Annual Convention and Exposition in Grand Rapids on June 10.

The awards are great testaments to the hard work performed by the credit union’s staff every day to help its membership and others in the community with much-needed loans, financial literacy education and other great products and services.

The credit union’s [Debt Crusher Program](#) consolidates individuals’ debt that can accumulate from auto lenders, payday lenders, finance companies, credit card companies, medical collectors and others. Extra Credit Union lenders sit down and listen to members’ stories instead of solely approving or denying a loan based off a credit score. They understand that sometimes people make mistakes and they deserve a second chance. Then, if approved, the lender consolidates their debt and puts them into a loan that they can afford based on their budget and financial goals. The member has an end in sight; They are finally able to get out of the cycle of never-ending, high-interest debt.

“Extra Credit Union is honored to be receiving the Innovation Award for our Debt Crusher Program. Each day we strive to innovate on behalf of our members so we can provide the very best in financial services and education,” said Deidra Williams, CEO and president of Extra Credit Union. “We want members to know that Extra Credit Union is on their side, not just to give them a loan—but to give them a better financial future. Our motto is ‘Nothing is Stopping Us from Lending to You’ and we live this mission every day. We thank the MCUL for this wonderful award recognizing our life-changing efforts.”

Ashley Fordyce has been working in schools through Extra Credit Union since 2005. In July 2012, she took on a new role as School and Community Relations Coordinator. Since then, she has reached well over 10,000 local students with her financial literacy presentations and programs on various financial topics and concepts, giving students useful information ranging from financial basics for kindergarten through 12th-grade students, to more involved aspects of finances, better preparing young adults to enter the real world. Part of Fordyce's school involvement includes being a youth advocate by mentoring for the Winning Futures Program for the past five years.

"I truly love and believe in what I do each day," Fordyce said. "I am passionate about educating youth now at an early age with financial literacy concepts that help them prepare for a successful financial future. I am glad to be a part of that and I am honored to be recognized for my efforts in making a difference in their lives and in the community overall."

###

Extra Credit Union (www.extracreditunion.org) was founded in 1954 by a group of educators with \$856 in assets. Today, with two full-service offices in Warren and Sterling Heights, Mich., Extra Credit Union has about 19,000 members with \$214 million in assets. The financial institution works with the local community and educators to provide hands-on learning, financial fundamentals, and customized services to help students and educators make good financial decisions. In addition, Extra Credit Union provides solution-based lending and credit education programs to open lending possibilities to people of all credit backgrounds in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties. Deidra M. Williams serves as President/CEO, leading the credit union in its mission.