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**Extra Credit Union Awards \$10,000 to Eight Local Teachers
Annual Grant Program Helps Fill Budget Gaps**

From rewarding good behavior with a team-building visit to the Warren Community Center to creating a robot with a new 3-D printer, teachers in area schools are getting the help they need to fill in budget gaps and keep students interested and engaged in learning, thanks to the help of Extra Credit Union's annual Teacher Extra-curricular Activity Money (TEAM) Classroom Grant Program. The program has awarded \$70,000 to local educators since it was started in 2011.

Through ECU's commitment to education and its heart to serve, Extra Credit Union is proud to announce this year's eight TEAM Classroom Grant recipients:

- **Rebecca Mulligan, Fitzgerald High School:** \$450 to purchase new drama equipment that was damaged in a flood at the school last year
- **Karen Janis, Beer Middle School:** \$1,000 to cover the cost of materials for students to make celebration boards to display at the eighth-grade graduation
- **Sara Sonnenfeld, Fitzgerald High School:** \$350 to pay for the bus cost and substitute cost for the leadership class to attend a team-building trip to Adventure Park
- **Susie Gurney, Carter Middle School:** \$2,000 to help cover the cost for students with positive behavior to attend a team-building field trip at the Warren Recreational Center
- **Melissa Hardy, Carleton Middle School:** \$1,939.84 to purchase 31 audio books for students who are struggling with reading levels, which will be available in the media center for all students to utilize
- **Robert Meier, Fitzgerald High School:** \$1,905 to purchase a 3-D printer to create R2D2
- **Jeff Kmiec, Fitzgerald High School:** \$2,000 to help cover the cost for the robotics team to be a part of the First Robotics competitions
- **John Adamus, Chatterton Middle School:** \$355.16 to purchase fitness items to add to the circuit training routine in the school's physical education classes

"We're proud to support our local educators, especially since Extra Credit Union wouldn't exist today if it weren't for a small group of educators who founded the financial institution more than 60 years ago," said Deidra Williams, President and CEO of Extra Credit Union. "We place a real importance on supporting our local schools with various initiatives, our TEAM Classroom Grant being one of the biggest ones. So many times, you see teachers reaching into their own pockets

to fund field trips, classroom supplies and out-of-the box projects to further reach and keep students engaged—and we are proud to be able to help them in those areas.”

Grant recipients will be honored in June at the credit union’s annual Excellence Awards luncheon honoring its grant winners, as well as its annual scholarship recipients, which will be announced in the spring. Visit Extra Credit Union’s [website](#) for more information on the credit union’s involvement in schools. And visit the credit union’s [YouTube page](#) for a video highlighting one of last year’s grant winners.

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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 (ECU) has more than 20,000 members and \$221 million in assets. Extra Credit Union 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, ECU 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.