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Extra Credit Union awards \$10,000 to local schools

Program marks \$110K in grants since 2011

All students learn differently. That's nothing new. But the funds to purchase the "extra" items needed to help reach those different learning styles aren't always available in a school's budget.

Thankfully, Extra Credit Union's School Employee Grant has been able to help support those "extra" needs for many schools and classrooms for the past 11 years—totaling nearly \$110,000 for local schools.

"We know that so often school employees reach into their own pockets to get those 'extra' items that really stretch the imagination, make a lesson come to life, turn that lightbulb on for that child who finally grasps the math lesson they've been struggling with, to go on a fun field trip, or even to purchase needed equipment for the school," said Ruthann Varosi, Assistant Vice President of Marketing at Extra Credit Union. "We have been so happy to provide the needed funds and support these school employees and their efforts. We plan on continuing to do so for many more years to come."

The credit union awards \$10,000 in grants annually, which will fund 10 projects this year.

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

- **Rosemarie Petty**—Holden Elementary School—\$1,200 to purchase decodable readers and literacy games
- **Sara Coffee and Jeremy Olstyn**—Cousino High School—\$560 to purchase new chairs to be used in TV Production and Radio Broadcasting classes
- **Megan Baranski and Stasi Earl**—Roseville Middle School—\$1,000 to purchase various pieces of equipment for the girls basketball teams at both Roseville middle schools
- **John Gomola and Amber Williamson**—Sterling Heights High School—\$735 to purchase a drone with other materials for the project, "A Digital Birds Eye View" to be used in various courses
- **Leanne Davis**—Chatterton Middle School—\$1,000 to help fund student success celebrations
- **Amanda Clor and John Adamus**—Fitzgerald High School—\$650 to help fund the Fitzgerald Spartan Academic All-Star Extravaganza

- **Mark Tapp**—International Academy of Macomb—\$2,000 to help fund the IAM Modern Classroom Project
- **Tracey Bailey**—Wolfe Middle School—\$551 to purchase math manipulative games for math intervention students
- **Vic Kolpak and other counselors**—Warren Mott High School—\$1,000 to help fund items needed for the school's START program
- **Sheri Dirski**—Munger Elementary School—\$1,300 to help fund items needed for a STEM Maker Station

Grant recipients will be honored in June at the credit union's annual Excellence Awards, an event at which Extra Credit Union also honors 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 last year's grant winners and the surprise announcements.

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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 a Main Office in Warren, Mich., Extra Credit Union (ECU) has nearly 20,000 members and \$322 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 the state of Michigan. Deidra M. Williams serves as President/CEO, leading the credit union in its mission.