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Extra Credit Union awards \$8,000 in scholarships in 2021

Three local college students started the fall semester with a bit of an “extra” break on their tuition, thanks to Extra Credit Union’s Continuing Education Scholarship.

Extra Credit Union’s [Continuing Education Scholarships](#) are awarded to current college or trade school students or those who have taken a break from schooling for a while and are returning to school in the fall. This is the fourth year the financial institution has awarded the scholarships.

Members of Extra Credit Union’s marketing team surprised the winners with a congratulatory lawn sign and large check.

“There are a lot of scholarships out there for high school seniors going to college, but not as many for those already in college or trade school—even adults,” said Ruthann Varosi, Assistant Vice President of Marketing at Extra Credit Union. “We are happy to help fill that gap and offset their tuition costs a little.”

This year’s recipients include:

- Jaylynn Jones—Michigan State University
- Brooke Hines—Grand Valley State University
- Erin Portalski—Wayne State University

Extra Credit Union also annually awards \$5,000 in college scholarships to high school seniors through its [Richard J. Spence Scholarship](#).

The 2020-21 Richard J. Spence Scholarship winners include:

- Sophia Benigni—Warren Mott High School, \$2,000
- Jade Jarskey—Marine City High School, \$1,000
- Alexa Clampitt—Utica Academy for International Studies, \$1,000
- Eliza Portalski—Warren Woods Tower High School, \$500
- Ryan Glant—Cousino High School, \$500

“We do a lot of work in schools from kindergarten through senior year, helping teach financial literacy throughout various stages of life,” Varosi said. “Our scholarships are another example of the work we do to help those we can on their own journey toward financial success.”

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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 full-service office in, Mich., Extra Credit Union (ECU) has more than 19,000 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 Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties. Deidra M. Williams serves as President/CEO, leading the credit union in its mission.