

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### CONTACT:

Ruthann Varosi  
Extra Credit Union  
Phone: 586.276.3151  
Email: [rvarosi@extracreditunion.org](mailto:rvarosi@extracreditunion.org)

## Extra Credit Union awards \$10,000 in educational grants Funding will allow for more engagement, hands-on learning in and out of school

Teaching and promoting multiculturalism. Climbing to new heights, and building trust and teamwork. Engaging students through a new fitness routine while promoting lifelong healthy living. Foreign language and STEM education. These are just a few examples of the engaging projects Extra Credit Union is supporting through the 2016-17 Teacher Extra-curricular Activity Money (TEAM) Classroom Grant.

Through ECU's commitment to education and its heart to serve, Extra Credit Union is proud to announce this year's TEAM Classroom Grant recipients. After reviewing nearly 20 applications, a committee recently chose 10 recipients. This year's winners include:

- **Michelle Pickett** – Montessori Stepping Stones – **\$780** to purchase the Rosetta Stone software and headphones for the foreign language proficiency program
- **Christel Cook** – Center Line High School – **\$1,865** for her students to attend Engineering Day at Cedar Point (covers busing)
- **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
- **Angela Gilchrist** – Fitzgerald High School – **\$1,000** to pay for appetizer foods at the multicultural talent show, as well as covering the busing cost for the Diversity Club to attend a field trip to learn about different cultures
- **Melanie VanMaele** – Lincoln Elementary School – **\$200** to purchase games and items to use for indoor recess fun
- **Melissa Young** – Angus Elementary School – **\$775** to purchase poetry paper and sewing kits for fleece lap blankets that will be given to residents at Oakmont Assisted Living Home (funds will also help with busing)
- **Jennifer Wickersham** – Wolfe Middle School – **\$600** to pay for students to have four STEMinista workshops on Saturdays
- **Sharon Sylvester** – Chatterton Middle School – **\$2,000** to purchase a 3D printing machine to use schoolwide in several subjects
- **John Adamus** – Chatterton Middle School – **\$2,000** to purchase cross fit fitness items for the physical education class to promote healthy living and confidence in young students

- **Brandy Rokicki** – Poupard Elementary School – **\$430** to purchase wobble chairs and other items to help keep behavioral challenged students attention/focus in class

“We have so many amazing educators right in our local community who go above and beyond to create engaging, hands-on lessons for their students. Unfortunately, many times, they don’t have the funding they need to be able to make those ideas come to fruition,” said Deidra Williams, President/CEO of Extra Credit Union. “We are happy that we are able to provide these teachers with the funding they need, and give these students educational lessons they will carry with them throughout life.”

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.

###

**Extra Credit Union** ([www.extracreditunion.org](http://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 about 19,000 members with \$214 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.