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CONTACT:

Amy Persyn
Extra Credit Union
Phone: 586.276.3151
Email: apersyn@extracreditunion.org

Extra Credit Union inspires student giving through Pay It Forward program

Fitzgerald High School student to donate supplies, time to local elementary school

Warren, Mich. – June 18, 2014 – One hundred dollars may not be much to some people, but when spent wisely, it can make a great impact on others. Take school supplies, for instance. It could buy about 145 glue sticks, 70 dry erase markers or 6,700 pencils. Just think of all the stick figures, art projects, solved math problems and learning that would come out of those supplies.

That's what Fitzgerald High School senior Don Carruthers plans on using his \$100 on – purchasing school supplies for the youngest of students at Westview Elementary School in Warren. Carruthers is the winner of Extra Credit Union's Pay It Forward contest. Students in the credit union's local member high schools recently were asked to submit essay entries on how they could change the world with \$100.

"I would use my money to give elementary schools more school supplies to do more things with," Carruthers wrote. "I think it's important for young students to have everything they need to be successful in this world. I think that buying school supplies for elementary students that need it would be the best use for my money."

The contest was created to engage students in thinking about how money, when used for good, can positively impact lives in our community. Carruthers will be going shopping for the supplies at **10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25 at Office Max in Sterling Heights**, which sponsored this year's program. **At 1 p.m.**, Carruthers will take the supplies to **Westview Elementary School in Warren**, where he will also volunteer his time.

Last year's winner spent \$100, as well as an additional gift certificate from K-9 Pet Supply store in Warren, on pet supplies she took to the Macomb County Animal Shelter.

"It is our mission to help students in our community become more financially literate," said Amy Persyn, marketing manager at Extra Credit Union. "We aim for students to think of how to manage money using the basic concepts of budgeting: save, spend, share. The pay-it-forward

concept reinforces our goal of getting kids to think about the impact that sharing money can have on a community. This exercise really reflects the value money can have in both a tangible and intangible way.”

To learn more about Extra Credit Union's educational programs, please visit www.extracreditunion.org.

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Founded in 1954, Extra Credit Union serves more than 25,000 members with some \$193 million in assets. The credit union operates two full-service branches, one in Warren and another in Sterling Heights. Extra Credit Union's unique focus on education is an important part of its mission: to enhance the financial well-being of all members by providing quality, value, and convenience in the products and services. For more information on membership eligibility and school programs please call (586) 276-3000 or visit us online at ExtraCreditUnion.org.