



Press Release For Immediate Publication

## Community Choice Awards 5 Local Teachers \$500 Grants for Financial Education

**Farmington Hills, Mich., May 16, 2022** -- Community Choice Credit Union has announced the recipients of their \$500 Cash for Classroom Grants, which are awarded to teachers who actively promote financial education as part of their curriculum.

Grant applications were available in April and are part of the Credit Union's recognition of National Credit Union Youth Month.

Teachers were asked to document their plans in a proposal in the grant application, and then list what they hope to achieve. Applications were available to teachers K-12.



“Learning responsible financial habits early on is a key to becoming a responsible saver and spender later in life,” said Jeremy Cybulski, Community Choice Community Engagement Manager. “That is why we encourage, and reward, financial education in classrooms. Young people need to learn these lessons. Conversations, games, and projects that involve these important life skills can influence the behaviors for a lifetime.”

Community Choice is pleased to announce the winners.

**Kelly Rentschler**, kindergarten, Columbia Elementary School (Brooklyn, MI); **Stephanie McDowell**, second grade, Garfield Elementary School (Wyandotte, MI); **Diana Rautio**, elementary ESL (English as Second Language), Northville Public Schools (Northville, MI); **Andrea Whitsell**, special education, Godwin Heights Middle School (Godwin, MI); and **Dawn McBride**, third grade, Garfield Elementary School (Wyandotte, MI).

All of the winners have unique ideas for bringing financial education into the classroom. Here's what two of our recipients had to say.

“As a new kindergarten teacher, I would love to be able to create a store dramatic play center so that the students are able to experience hands-on learning with money,” said Rentschler in her application.

“I would like my student leaders to create a fundraiser for a local charity as a schoolwide project. ... Students will begin with the end in mind to create a target goal, timeline, make change for customers, and collect donations,” said McDowell.



Community Choice wishes to salute all teachers who add financial education to their lesson plans. Teaching kids about saving and spending is a subject the Credit Union holds dear. Aside from the grants, Community Choice also hosts reality fairs in local schools, awards \$100,000 in scholarships every year through its Foundation, and annually host backpack drives to prepare students for their upcoming school year.

**About Community Choice Credit Union:**

The Michigan-based credit union believes in helping its neighbors across the state achieve the life they desire. Established in 1935, Community Choice has 22 locations across the state, serves more than 115,000 members, and has grown its assets to \$1.7 billion. The credit union is committed to helping the community and upholds a Give Big philosophy. Since 2008, team members have given more than 32,969 volunteer hours in communities across the state. Additionally, The Community Choice Foundation, has awarded \$1.4 million in scholarships to Michigan's students graduating from high school, pursuing continuing education programs, and the skilled trades. To learn more, visit [CommunityChoice.com](http://CommunityChoice.com).