

JULY 2007

VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 7



Special Delivery

A publication for the members of
Cincinnati Postal Employees Credit Union

1243 West 8th St., P.O. Box 14403, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0403, Tel: 513-381-8600, Toll Free: 1-800-265-4527, Fax: 513-345-8726

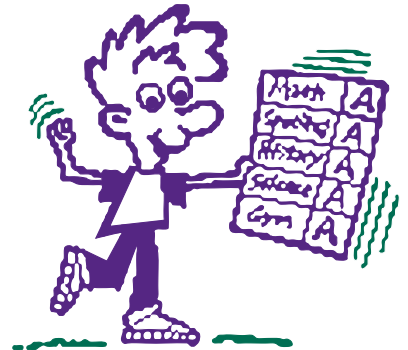
It's Report Card Bonus Time!

If there's a student in your family who is a member of Cincinnati Postal Employees Credit Union, (between Kindergarten age and 18) who has received a great report card from school, we have a special bonus in store for him or her.

We will reward our young members with a special bonus of \$1.00 for each "A" (up to a maximum of 10 subjects) he or she earns on his or her end of the year promotion report card. It's our way of letting your child know that we believe working hard in school is very important to his or her future success.

Here's how to get your child's Good Grades Bonus:

- The child must be the primary member of the account to qualify.
- Photocopy your child's end of year report card (the report card that indicates the student is being promoted to the next grade).
- As a parent or guardian, sign the copy as your guarantee that the copy is a true and valid duplicate of the original with no alterations.
- Write the child's member number on the report card copy.
- Mail or bring the copy to CPECU no later than August 31, 2007. Please do not send the child's original report card to the credit union.



If your youngster is not yet a primary member of the CPECU and you want them to participate in this incentive program this would be a good time to have them become a member. They will then be able to enjoy the many benefits of being a member of Cincinnati Postal Employees Credit Union.

Reds Baseball Tickets To Lucky Winners

Yes, that's right we are again giving away Reds baseball tickets, sets of 4 tickets each and a parking pass to see the Reds play. All you have to do is have your name entered in our drawing. We will enter your name each time you use one or more of the following services:



- Open a Share Draft Account with Direct Deposit.
- Open a Share Certificate for \$15,000 or more. (New money).
- Take out a Home Equity or a Second Mortgage Loan for \$15,000 or more.
- Take out a vehicle Loan for \$15,000 or more.
- Sign up a new member and both of you will be entered in our drawing.
- Be approved for one of our credit cards.

Winning tickets will be drawn on the 1st working day in August 2007. All loans must be closed before drawing date.

Winners must pick up tickets and parking passes 3 days prior to date of the game or forfeit tickets. Another drawing will be held for any forfeited tickets.

Christine Heil 2007 Scholarship Winner

Christine Heil is one of CPECU's 2007 \$1,000 scholarship winners. Christine is the daughter of Gary and Darlene Heil. Christine is currently a sophomore at Thomas More College. Christine plans to become a social worker when she graduates and plans to volunteer at St. Charles Nursing Home in Covington Kentucky during this summer. Christine became a CPECU member before her first birthday, so she is celebrating her 19th year as a member. WOW!

Gary Heil, Christine's Dad retired from the Post Office on June 3, 2001 after 35 years of service where he was a postal inspector. Darlene Heil, Christine's Mom has been employed at Covington Latin School for the last 6 years. Christine has 3 older sisters (Michele, Rebecca and Jennifer) and 1 older brother (Daniel) and yes, she is the baby of the family.

Christine's parents saw the newsletter article about the scholarship and encouraged Christine to apply. Christine took advantage of Rebecca's teaching skills and had her sister review and critique her composition before submitting her application. Christine did not feel the application was difficult and she is very happy she applied. Her suggestion to future applicants is to have several other people read and critique your composition.

Ready for the real world? What changes would you

Christine Heil's Winning Essay

No one can ever be fully prepared for the real world right out of high school, but modifications can be made to the curriculum to better train students. Two adjustments that could be made are introducing opportunities in employment class and a financial management class. By introducing students to these topics, they will hone the skills necessary to succeed in both the work force and in financial planning.

A financial planning class would stress the importance of budgeting and saving money for later life. Part of the budgeting process would include information on how to reconcile bank statements. It would also include techniques to analyze loan offers and scrutinize the fine print of such offers. Students need to be aware of the pitfalls of credit card usage and the adverse affect of non-payment on their credit rating. Tax preparation would be an important component of this class as most students have minimal knowledge of basic tax preparation. College students typically do not work to save money for their retirement. This could be because they do not know the impact that saving a small amount of money for retirement early can have. People tend to put off saving for their retirement. If a person were to put the maximum allowable deposit in an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), the money would compound over the next fifty years. At age sixty, a person would have to deposit approximately fifty thousand dollars in an IRA to make up for four thousand dollars not deposited right out of high school. Educating students earlier with a balanced financial management class will ensure the framework for future financial success.



Providing an "Opportunities in Employment" class will give students better insight into the real world. Some students may already have jobs, but as they progress in career opportunities their knowledge of the hunt will also need to improve. One aspect of the course would be teaching students how to find a job. As technology advances, there are more and more ways to find opportunities. Finding the right sources can put the student at an advantage. In the midst of all the job search engines provided online, it can take months to actually hear back from an employer. Also students need to be taught how to properly write a resume. Learning different formats can give students insight on creating the perfect resume to portray themselves. Interviewing skills are also a key component to this class. There are many simple techniques that are commonly unknown that can easily put the candidate ahead. Sending a thank you note after an interview is quick and easy and shows the employer that you value their time. Proper follow up procedures would also be taught so that students know the timely manner in which to call or have a better grasp on how to apply for jobs, which is becoming more important in the competitive work world.

Requiring a financial management class and an "Opportunities in Employment" class" would be a key in making changes in the high school education program. Heading into the real world can be intimidating and stressful. By introducing students to these programs the shock of the real world would diminish. It would make the students feel more prepared and as if they had the upper hand. Nothing can fully prepare students for the real world, but providing these classes would be a great step.

Christine Heil

Maria Behler 2007 Scholarship Winner

Maria Behler has won a \$1,000 scholarship to help complete her education which started 19 years ago at the age of 5. Maria is the daughter of Steve and Cathy Behler and their family is truly a credit union family. Steve Behler is the CEO of Kemba Credit Union and Maria has been employed at Cincinnati Postal Employees Credit Union since she was 16, some 8 years ago.

Maria graduated from Mother of Mercy High School, before entering the University of Cincinnati. She graduated from UC in June, 2005. Maria attends the University of Cincinnati, College of Allied Health Sciences and will be an Audiologist when her studies are completed. Maria should complete her Doctorate by June, 2009.

Maria is the oldest of 5 children and has 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Besides completing her Doctorate, working for the credit union, working with the hearing impaired, Maria is very involved in her wedding plans. Maria and Clint Kersting will be married on July 14th, 2007.

Maria has worked part-time since high school and full-time in the summers. You may have met her at the receptionist desk, filling in for lunches and backing up the receptionist when the phones lit up. She works for Ann Martin on special projects and monthly tasks which includes paying CPECU bills and posting and balancing investments.

You make in the high school education program?

Maria Behler's Winning Essay

As a graduate student I feel that I have a very different perspective of the high school curriculum than those of students currently attending high school. The experience that I have as a college student has opened my eyes to change that need to be made in the high school education programs.

It is becoming a standard in the United States to obtain a college degree. College degrees are a necessity to be marketable and to be competitive in the job market. To successfully earn a college degree, studying is a necessity. It is apparent that many of the children graduating high school, me included, were not able to independently study. Most college classes rely on the student to teach themselves by not only going to lectures and studying, but also reading textbooks, participating in hands-on projects such as labs, and forming study groups. Teaching high school students to independently study can lead to their further success in college.



High school teachers also tend to “spoon-feed” pertinent information to students. The students then memorize this information quickly by cramming and then “spit out” the same information on a test. This system relies only on rote memory, not on comprehension and application of the material. To be truly able to understand the material, lessons must be taught, read, and reiterated through hands-on experiences. This is not the sole job of the teacher, but also the student to make an effort to learn. High school is, for many people, the last time they will depend on their parents for food and shelter. Soon after graduation, student loans and credit card debt seem to increase exponentially. High school students are very impressionable, so the high school program should use this opportunity to teach the child the importance of paying their bills, credit cards, and student loans.

Also, a small change to the high school curriculum could be beneficial to society. All high schools teach the main subjects, Reading, Language, Science, Social Studies, and Math, but I have yet to find a curriculum that teaches finances and how to successfully save and invest money. Society relies on parents to teach their children about money. Most adults in the United States know how to make a budget, but they do not know how to keep it. Temptations to spend money and “keep up with the Jones” pressures the most level headed people to spend their money frivolously. This can lead to increasing debt, a decreasing in savings accounts, and decreasing credit bureau scores.

If each high school student is taught how to make a budget and how to balance their assets and liabilities with their income and expenses, society will become more financially stable. A financially stable community will raise people who are able to make loans and build up bank accounts. This will be beneficial to all of society, including credit unions.

In summary, the high school curriculum needs to prepare children for not only the main subjects, but also for real-life financial experiences.

Maria Behler

Wanted: Credit Union Directors

The Nominating Committee is now accepting applications for Directors for 2008. There are currently three expiring terms to be filled. Elected officials are volunteers and receive no compensation for their services.

You must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a member in good standing and in sound financial condition.
2. Must be able to meet insurance bonding requirements.
3. Cannot be presently employed by CPECU, or a service provider.
4. Cannot be an immediate family member of a staff employee.
5. Must be willing to attend educational seminars and training as required.
6. Must be willing to donate sufficient time to required meetings.
7. Must be willing to sign application and "Statement of Consent".

Interested members should send a letter requesting an application to Nominating Committee, CPECU, P.O. Box 14403, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0403.

Letters requesting an application must be postmarked no later than November 2, 2007. We will send you an application that must be completed and returned no later than November 23, 2007.

7.99%

Can You Spare Some Change?

CPECU has again adopted a class at Oyler Elementary School for Christmas. We are now taking donations at our office. When you visit the office just watch for the jars that has "Can you spare some change" written on them. We are also selling all types of small bears; profit will go into our Christmas Fund we are hoping to again make this an extra special Christmas for the children.

We will have a bake sale at the credit union office on Friday November 2, 2007 all monies going to the children.

Last year we had great participation from our members we hope we can expect the same this year, without your help we could not make it happen. Watch future newsletters for additional details.