

1ST PLACE ESSAY

One Federal Credit Union College Scholarship Program

Scholarship Essay

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How can your credit union help you become financially independent?

For over one hundred ten years, Credit Unions across the nation have been working with their members to create good relationships and a place for people to come and bank. Today, the One Federal Credit Union in particular spans across Crawford County giving people of all backgrounds a place to learn, bank, and develop relationships through community involvement. Not only does ONE Federal Credit Union provide people with these benefits, but it also helps people become financially independent. They provide various savings accounts, teach financial literacy to the youth of the community, provide scholarships for students looking to further their education, and offer mobile and online banking for when you're on the go. They also supply every person with the opportunity to talk to a member of their team in order to figure out what product is best for you so that to you can become financially independent.

The ONE Federal Credit Union has an abundance of savings accounts that each have unique traits that fit every situation. They have regular Savings Accounts, Money Market Accounts, Certificates of Deposit, IRA Accounts, and Holiday Accounts (Saving). Each account is made to ensure the happiness and success of the member in regards to saving their money and keeping it safe. Their main focus is to provide community members with the opportunity and aid to become financially independent. Perhaps even more important than these accounts, they teach

the youth in the community how to manage money. In the Cochran High School, Meadville High school, Jamestown High school, and Titusville High School, they provide students with an actual class with a teacher that teaches them about money management, marketing, communication skills, and a large number of other life skills that prepare them to become independent (Youth). Similar to the NextGen program in the high schools, there is a SuperSaver Program in three of the Meadville Elementary Schools. First District, Neason Hill, and West End each have a program available to their students that teaches them at an early age the importance of saving and working to become stable in the future (Youth). Through savings accounts the Credit Union gives people the ability to bank their own way and they provide programs in the schools of Crawford County that teach students to become financially independent.

The Scholarship program is available to current high school students planning on attending college or a trade school after high school. There are three categories that students can enter in order to receive a chance to win five hundred dollars per winning topic (College Scholarship Program). Awarding scholarships to students helps them grow immensely more financially independent by helping to alleviate some the stresses of debt and by letting students know that the ONE Federal Credit Union is there to help with finances at any point in life.

Mobile and Online banking is very much an asset to the Credit Union that jumpstarts financial independence among its members. It allows members to get the chance to bank on their own time and manage their finances at home at their leisure. Mobile banking allows members to not only look at their account, but it allows them to transfer money between accounts and it can even let you deposit a check (Home). The online banking is similar in that it allows you to look

at your money and transfer money from each account. They each allow members to have the chance to learn to manage their own money and get that independence.

The ability to speak with a financial advisor is another thing that highlights the way that the ONE Federal Credit Union helps you become financially independent. You have the opportunity to ask any questions and advice of people that work at the Credit Union. They give you advice based on your needs and they tell you what will help you the most. Your success is constantly in their thoughts when they are making decisions within the Credit Union.

For years credit unions have been acting as a guiding hand helping their members better themselves and gain financial independence. Their motto is “Banking... but Better” and this is withheld within their push to make their members financially independent. Helping their member through their programs and accounts they invest in bettering their independence.

Citations

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