



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LAFCU raises \$1,120 to send Everett High School senior to prom**  
*Credit union holds check presentation for local student to attend symbolic event*

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU held a check presentation April 6 for Eric Cooper, an Everett High School senior, so he can attend a quintessential part of the high school experience: prom. The credit union, along with other community-minded donors, including Centennial Group and Lansing Church of God in Christ, raised \$1,120 to cover Cooper's expenses for the May 13 event.



The check presentation for Eric Cooper, a senior at Everett High School, was held April 6 at LAFCU Headquarters. Cooper will use the \$1,120 check to cover the costs associated with his prom May 13.



LAFCU staff, including (L to R) LAFCU Chief Membership Officer, Angie Ruzinsky; Chief Human Resources Officer, Robyn Howell; and Senior Member Service Representative, Tanya Griffin; and Everett High School student, Eric Cooper, celebrated while presenting the \$1,120 check on behalf of LAFCU and community organizations so Cooper can attend his senior prom.

Cooper, the American-born son of a Haitian refugee mother and absentee father, faced numerous challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. When schools closed during his sophomore year, Cooper and his family did not have the resources to fully participate in virtual online learning, and he fell way behind.

Several months ago, LAFCU's former Local 459 Union representative reached out to LAFCU and others in the community to provide Cooper with a great experience for his senior year of high school. Not only did they raise funds for prom, but LAFCU and other donors raised money

for clothing and a vehicle to get him to and from work and soccer practice.

“We sort of adopted Eric in a way,” said LAFCU Chief Human Resources Officer Robyn Howell. “He is just such a phenomenal kid, and he is deserving of so many things, so we just wanted to do what we could to provide him with the best senior year possible.”

With help from LAFCU and friends, and Cooper’s own hard work and perseverance, he was able to not only overcome and adapt but also thrive. He recently received a full soccer scholarship to Great Lakes Christian College, where he will begin his studies in the fall.

“I am extremely thankful and feel very blessed for this opportunity,” said Cooper. “I’ve suffered many losses throughout my life, but I trust in the high power of God, and I’m slowly making a comeback and striving through adversity.”

#### **About LAFCU**

Chartered in 1936, LAFCU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative open for membership to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Michigan and to businesses and other entities located in Michigan. The credit union serves more than 74,000 members and holds over \$986 million in assets. It was named a Best Credit Union to Work For in 2020. LAFCU offers a comprehensive range of financial products and services as well as an expanding complement of financial technology solutions. Members enjoy benefits such as low fees, low-interest rates on loans, high yields on savings, discounts, knowledgeable employees and nationwide access to fee-free ATMs. A recipient of the national Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award for credit unions, LAFCU enriches the communities it serves by supporting many organizations and causes. To learn more about LAFCU, call 800.748.0228 or visit [www.lafcu.com](http://www.lafcu.com).



Eric Cooper smiles with his giant check, courtesy of LAFCU. Cooper will use the money to attend his senior prom.

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