



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAFCU awards \$4K to Michigan teachers to stock classrooms, alleviate financial burden

Credit union provides eight teachers with \$500 as part of its Teachers Grant program

LANSING, Mich. — Since 2022, LAFCU has donated \$7K as part of its Teachers Grant program that recognizes teachers' unmatched dedication and unwavering commitment to their students and the financial strain they often endure while using out of pocket money to purchase materials required to help their students succeed and thrive in the classroom.



The winners of the 2023 Teachers Grant celebrate after each receiving \$500 grants to purchase materials for the new school year. From left, Jasmine Kraft, Terra Tomlinson, RaeLynne Kinsora, Abigail Tanner, Erin Fredericks, Khloe Kremer and Alison Bowen. Also pictured is Bowen's daughter, far right. Not pictured: Amy Austin.

This year, the Michigan credit union expanded the program by opening it up statewide to all Michigan teachers and increasing the grants provided. Eight teachers were awarded a total of \$4,000.



LAFCU staff pose with seven of the 2023 Teachers Grant program recipients after a check presentation at LAFCU headquarters. Each winner was awarded \$500 after they were selected based on their online applications and explanations of how the funds would benefit their classrooms and students.

Each teacher received a \$500 grant during a presentation at LAFCU headquarters and will use the funds to purchase materials that create more enriching and nurturing educational environments.

The winners were chosen from over 200 statewide entrants based on their online applications and explanations of how the funds would benefit their classrooms and students.

- **Jasmine Kraft** of Saginaw, Michigan, North Saginaw Charter Academy – 2nd grade

- **Khloe Kremer** of Ionia, Michigan, Freedom Acres – Preschool
- **Abigail Tanner** of Jackson, Michigan, Northwest High School – 12th grade
- **Alison Bowen** of Grand Ledge, Michigan, Grand Ledge High School – 10th grade
- **RaeLynne Kinsora** of Grand Ledge, Michigan, Delta Center Elementary – Pre-K-4th grades
- **Erin Fredericks** of Grand Ledge, Michigan, Beagle Middle School – 7th and 8th grades
- **Terra Tomlinson** of Laingsburg, Michigan, Laingsburg Middle School – 6th-8th grades
- **Amy Austin** of Rochester, Michigan, Rochester Community School – Adult transition

Entrants were not required to be LAFCU members but must be Michigan residents and teachers for fall 2023.

The National Education Association stated that over 90% of teachers spent money out of pocket this year to purchase classroom supplies for their students.

“LAFCU created the Teachers Grant program after staff learned that many schools in our service area are underfunded and teachers will often pay for supplies out of their own pockets,” said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer. “Teachers are not just instructors or educators; they’re community members who shape the fabric of our communities and have a tremendous impact on future workers and society as a whole, so we must support them however possible and alleviate that financial burden.”

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 \$1 billion 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.

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