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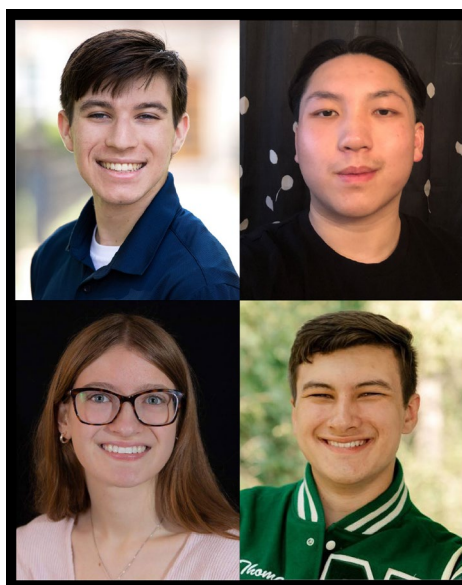
LAFCU’s Write to Educate Essay Contest winners announced, \$20K in college scholarships to be awarded

Winning essays reflected on how their hometowns have molded, impacted them

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU is proud to announce the winners of the 2024 Write to Educate Essay Contest: Vivian Hansen (Pinckney High School), Thomas Hays (Napoleon High School), Antonio Rojas (East Lansing High School) and Elvis Vue (Waverly High School).

This year’s winners were selected based on their compelling one-page essays, which explored how their hometowns shaped their identities and contributed to their personal growth.

“This year’s essay topic encouraged entrants to reflect on how their hometowns were integral to their personal stories, shaping and influencing who they are today,” said Alyssa Troub, LAFCU marketing and communications specialist.



(L to R) Antonio Rojas (East Lansing High School), Elvis Vue (Waverly High School), Vivian Hansen (Pinckney High School), and Thomas Hays (Napoleon High School).



LAFCU will award \$5,000 in college scholarships to each of the four winners, totaling \$20,000. Additionally, LAFCU will donate \$2,000 to charities selected by the winners.

“Vivian, Thomas, Antonio and Elvis did an extraordinary job capturing the significance of their hometowns and the pivotal roles these places played in their lives.”

The Michigan credit union will award \$5,000 in college scholarships to each of the four winners, totaling \$20,000. Additionally, LAFCU will donate \$2,000 to charities selected by the winners.

“It is an incredible honor to be selected for

this scholarship,” said Antonio Rojas. “This generous award will be a huge help towards my education. I am also happy that money will be donated to Cristo Rey so that they can continue to help others. I hope to one day be in a position where I can help others as LAFCU has helped me.”

The winners, their chosen colleges, and selected charities are:

- **Vivian Hansen, Pinckney High School (Brighton, MI)**
 - **College/University:** Eastern Michigan University
 - **Charity Chosen:** Bountiful Harvest Pantry
- **Thomas Hays, Napoleon High School (Jackson, MI)**
 - **College/University:** Michigan State University
 - **Charity Chosen:** Jackson Community Foundation
- **Antonio Rojas, East Lansing High School (Lansing, MI)**
 - **College/University:** University of Michigan
 - **Charity Chosen:** Cristo Rey Community Center
- **Elvis Vue, Waverly High School (Lansing, MI)**
 - **College/University:** Ferris State University
 - **Charity Chosen:** Hmong Family Association

"I feel forever grateful for being selected as a scholarship recipient," said Vivian Hansen. This scholarship brings me one step closer to achieving my future dreams."

The winning essays were published in the Lansing State Journal, community sponsor of the contest. The essays are also available at www.lafcu.com/writetoeducate.

The annual LAFCU Write to Educate Essay Contest is open to all Michigan high school students. A LAFCU membership is not required. However, the winners must attend a Michigan university with the awarded scholarship. Next year's Write to Educate Essay Contest will open in winter 2025.

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 74,000 members and holds over \$1 billion in assets. Named a Best Credit Union to Work For, 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, visit www.lafcu.com.

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