

COPFCU 2023 Scholarship Recipient



Emily Argo Memorial Scholarship- \$4,000

Recipient: Isabella Lambrinides, Colerain High School

There are many similarities between banks and credit unions. What is one of the biggest benefits you have witnessed with services offered by credit unions? And how would you communicate those benefits to your own peers as to why credit unions are better options?

A credit union is a community. It's a community that supports one another in an aspect that not many organizations can do. Members at the Cincinnati Ohio Police Federal Credit Union earned their membership and know that they are taken care of by representatives who truly care for them. Every day, a plethora of people from all walks of life are greeted by their first name and then walk out feeling known and also confident in who they bank with. COPFCU isn't a large, multinational corporation that everyone banks with; it's a community where you can feel safe and protected.

I have been very fortunate to witness this throughout my time as a student co-op teller at the Colerain location. Every day we work hard to remember our members' names, we look at them not as a number but as a face and story. I have watched co-workers bend over backwards from a member service standpoint to help people of all financial backgrounds. COPFCU's savings and checking accounts are catered towards all levels of income, not to mention our great business savings and checking accounts. Additionally, we have loan officers who are willing and able to work with different demographics. Something unique about COPFCU is that they have worked diligently to reach out to local school districts such as Colerain and make mini kiosk branches for students that have bank accounts. Teaching the future generation about finance and making a credit union in a school has so many amazing benefits- I know that it has been so important in my journey of financial literacy.

All of my peers are simply looking to solve the puzzle of life. They are working to figure out where they are going to college, saving money, and applying for student loans. From my personal experience I know that I can tell my peers why they should become COPFCU members. I would tell a peer that it is a place where they can feel safe and known, and I would explain to them all of the aspects I have mentioned above regarding a membership. Already, I have asked peers to join this community. Recently, I was able to direct a close friend to our website to look into student loans.

COPFCU isn't just a credit union- it's a community. I have had the privilege to be a part of this amazing team- we build our members up and help them face their daily battles. Through quarterly giveaways, a social media presence, student kiosks, and phenomenal member service, this organization sets itself apart for the love and prosperity it brings to the community.