

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Southeastern Credit Union Foundation Awards Scholarships to Two College Students for New Community Spark Program**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates (LSCU & Affiliates) and the Southeastern Credit Union Foundation (SECUF) are pleased to announce we have awarded two students with scholarships to attend college and expand their financial education. Henderson Rosser and Terrell Jones were each awarded a \$10,000 scholarship this year that will renew every year for a total of \$40,000 per student. This is all part of the new Community Spark initiative to ignite collaboration among credit unions in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

“Credit unions have always been about ‘people helping people’ and our foundation embodies that philosophy,” said Bobbi Grady, the Director of SECUF. “This program is one of the credit union movement’s best examples of collaboration for the benefit of our members and communities, and it all proves we are stronger together.”

These Community Spark scholarships provide financial assistance to underserved and first-generation college students who are attending college in Alabama or Georgia. For this year, both students are attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The program establishes credit union summer internships for the scholarship recipients and utilizes the integration of students and credit unions as a conduit to expand financial education to the students, the students’ families, and beyond.

“We are excited to invest in the next generation, further the financial education of students in our three states, and equip them with the resources they need to be successful,” said Samantha Beeler, the President of LSCU & Affiliates. “The Community Spark initiative is all about our communities and credit unions working together to make a measurable impact, lessening financial needs, and enhancing our society, economy, and environment.”

LSCU and SECUF created the Community Spark program to identify and address overlying development issues within each state. The Florida Community Spark project, “Removing Barriers to Employment,” will see the SECUF partner with credit unions across Florida to launch a Credit Union Specialist program that will train and educate participants previously

unqualified for entry-level careers in the financial services sector. Through boot camp style training, internships, and employer demand for full-time hires, this program will transform the lives of individuals seeking a stable career and prove a return on investment for employer partners.

In Alabama and Georgia, SECUF and credit unions are working together on the Community Spark scholarship program. This year's two recipients, Rosser and Jones, are excited to be a part of the credit union movement. Rosser is attending Tuskegee University in Alabama and Jones is attending Morehouse College in Georgia. The two young men are looking forward to furthering their education and keeping us updated on their success.

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#### **ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF SOUTHEASTERN CREDIT UNIONS & AFFILIATES**

*The League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates represents 311 credit unions throughout Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and has a combined total of more than \$165 billion in assets and more than 11.2 million members. LSCU provides advocacy, compliance services, education and training, cooperative initiatives, and communications. For more information, visit [www.lscu.coop](http://www.lscu.coop). Follow LSCU on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).*