

Winter
2025

Scholarship
season begins

Consolidate
holiday debt

New branch
coming

Roll Up
the Change



CommonInterest

Michigan Schools & Government Credit Union Quarterly Newsletter



Students and educators, apply now for an MSGCU scholarship.



New for 2025: 10 additional scholarships!

The online application period begins Thursday, January 2, at 8 a.m., and closes Tuesday, February 25, at 10 p.m.

MSGCU was founded by teachers and we recognize the value of lifelong learning. This year we are proud to award more than \$130,000 in scholarships to those who are working hard to achieve their educational dreams.

- **The MSGCU High School Excellence Scholarship:** 18 scholarships of \$2,500 each are awarded to high school seniors with plans to attend college.
- **Rudolph Heino People Helping People Scholarship:** Starting in 2025, the \$2,500 scholarship will be given to 15 individuals, an increase of 10 awards. This scholarship recognizes college-bound high school seniors with a demonstrated commitment to living the credit union philosophy of *people helping people*.
- **Larry Swantek Educational Studies Scholarship:** Four scholarships of \$2,500 each are provided to high school seniors and current college students planning to become teachers.
- **Milo Perreault Educator Advancement Scholarship:** Four scholarships of \$2,500 each are presented to certified educators and administrators continuing their education.
- **William Cayen Skilled Trades Scholarship:** Two scholarships of \$2,500 each are awarded to students pursuing certification in electrical, HVAC, automotive, or other industrial and advanced technologies or skilled trades programs.
- **Stephen Thomas First Responder Scholarship:** 14 scholarships of \$2,000 each are given to first responders enrolled in the police and/or fire academies at Macomb Community, Oakland Community, Washtenaw Community, and Schoolcraft Colleges. Applications occur directly with these schools.

✦ Apply at msgcu.org/scholarships and learn more about our scholarships and their namesakes.

Progress your financial goals in 2025 with help from MSGCU.

The start of a new year is a time for reflection and an opportunity to plan for the future. We celebrated our milestone 70th anniversary in 2024 and have been reflecting on our deep gratitude to our members for being a part of our longstanding history. Thank you for choosing MSGCU as your trusted financial partner.

At MSGCU, we are committed to keeping our members at the center of everything we do, and our team is driven to continuously make it easier to bank with us. In 2025, we're looking forward to welcoming you to our second branch office in Rochester Hills. And when you want to bank with us from home, Video Banking, online chat, Online Banking and our highly rated Mobile App are available. Look for more digital enhancements in 2025 to make banking with MSGCU even easier. To help you achieve financial success, no matter how you decide to bank with us, you will continue to find competitive loan and savings rates and low to no fees with MSGCU.

It is an ideal time to set your financial goals. We are here to learn about your objectives and help you find the best way to reach them. Our team members can champion you by helping you create a budget, save for the future, or find ways to improve your monthly cash flow. Stop by your local branch or contact us to put your financial goals in motion.

Steve Brewer
President/CEO



Meet our Board of Directors nominees.

Elizabeth (Libby) Argiri earned a Bachelor of Arts, Accounting with Honor, and a Master of Business Administration in Integrative Management, both from Michigan State University. She is a graduate of Leadership Macomb and a certified public accountant. Ms. Argiri has been employed as a financial and business administrator at Macomb Community College for over 20 years, serving as Executive Vice President for Business since 2010. She has also served on several boards and associations. Ms. Argiri welcomes the opportunity to continue to participate in shaping the growth and success of MSGCU, and to assist in building upon MSGCU's mission of being a caring organization dedicated to promoting financial success for members.

Richard P. Maierle received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Wayne State University and completed his postgraduate studies in Public Administration at Central Michigan University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 213. Mr. Maierle currently serves as Chief of Police for the Village of Armada, and previously served as Detective Captain for the Clinton Township Police Department and part-time Lieutenant for the Macomb Township Fire Department. He would like to continue his service on the Board of Directors to make Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union an even better place to do business and to ensure that members receive the best services, products, and return on their investment.

Charles Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration in Finance, both from Wayne State University. Prior to his retirement in 2010, Mr. Thomas was employed as a financial and business administrator at Macomb Community College for 34 years, serving as Vice President for Business from 1995 until his retirement. Mr. Thomas has served on the MSGCU Board since 1996, and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System. As an MSGCU Board Member, Mr. Thomas's goal is to ensure that the Credit Union continues to provide efficient and effective services for members that contribute to their financial success and resources.

If you wish to be included on the ballot for MSGCU's Board of Directors:

1. Submit a written request to the President/CEO for a nomination package.
2. Collect verifiable signatures of at least three percent of the current membership supporting your candidacy.
3. Forward the signatory document along with a candidacy notice and resume to: MSGCU, Attn: President/CEO's Office, 40400 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038. In your notice, please include your name, address, MSGCU account number, daytime phone number, and a brief note detailing how your skills can assist MSGCU.

Completed submissions must be received by Friday, February 7, 2025.

Start Saving Today with Roll Up the Change.

There's now an easy way to boost your savings with a new feature available for Regular and Fresh Start Checking Accounts.

With every purchase made with your MSGCU debit card, you can round up the amount to the nearest dollar, and that extra change will be transferred automatically to your MSGCU savings account. To start utilizing Roll Up the Change, please contact MSGCU or stop in your local branch to activate this savings-building feature.


 Learn more about our checking accounts and their benefits at msgcu.org/checking.



Congratulations to our 2024 Classroom Cash Grants recipients!

MSGCU recently awarded \$45,000 in grants to 62 local teachers through our Classroom Cash Grants program. The money will be used to fund the innovative learning projects chosen by MSGCU members and the community, who cast over 117,000 votes for their favorite ideas.

Thanks for your participation!

 Visit classroomcash.org to see the projects that received funding.

Helpful notes for your 2024 tax return.

As you plan your 2024 tax filing, keep in mind 2024 IRA contributions must be made by Tuesday, April 15, 2025. IRA distribution 1099 records will be ready by the middle of February 2025.

Remember, you can save with TurboTax and H&R Block this tax season through exclusive discounts available for MSGCU members. Learn more at msgcu.org/turbotax2024 and enter the Love My Credit Union Rewards Tax Time Sweepstakes for the chance to win a \$1,000 monthly prize or the \$10,000 grand prize.* Congratulations to the lucky MSGCU member that won the grand prize in 2024!

*No purchase necessary. Legal residents of the 50 United States (D.C.) 18 years or older who are members or employees of a U.S. credit union. Ends 4/15/25. To enter and for Official Rules, including odds and prize descriptions, visit <https://taxservices.lovemycrreditunion.org>. Void where prohibited.



MSGCU named a Top Workplace by the Detroit Free Press.

For the 12th consecutive year, MSGCU has been recognized as one of Michigan's Top Workplaces by the Detroit Free Press. This award means a lot to us since it's determined by our team members, and it shows they love helping our members achieve financial success.

We're proud to provide a positive, uplifting work environment for our team. Current career openings are available at msgcu.org/careers.

Two MSGCU members won 2024 PAC Grand Raffle prizes!

Congratulations to the two lucky MSGCU members that received the \$20,000 grand prize and a \$2,000 prize from the Political Action Committee (PAC) Grand Raffle. The members purchased raffle tickets from our branch offices in Royal Oak and Commerce Township. The Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL) Legislation Action Fund sponsors the PAC Grand Raffle annually. The Grand Raffle is one of the largest fundraising events in the credit union movement and supports MCUL's Federal PAC to ensure credit unions have a strong voice to maintain legislative support for our members and mission.

A growing branch network to better serve you.

MSGCU continues to add new branches to make banking more convenient for all of our members. Our second Rochester Hills branch office will open this year at 2101 South Rochester Road at the intersection of Rochester Road and Hamlin.

🌟 Get updates on this new location at msgcu.org/newbranches.



Smart ways to wrap up holiday debt.

If you had a merry time shopping over the holidays, your credit card balances may have gone up. MSGCU can help simplify payments and reduce interest costs with these debt consolidation options:

- **Home equity loan:** With a fixed rate as low as 6.25% APR*, you'll pay significantly less interest when you use your home's equity to consolidate high-rate debt from other financial institutions or credit cards with an MSGCU home equity loan. Learn more at msgcu.org/heloan.
- **Visa balance transfer:** You can transfer your credit card balances to a low-rate MSGCU Visa card and save. During our special promotion from January 6 – June 30, 2025, you'll get a low rate of just 3.99% APR[^] for the first 6 months on balance transfers to help you pay down debt faster. Plus, there are no balance transfer fees and all of our Visa cards are eligible. Learn more at msgcu.org/VBT.

Want to prevent post-holiday debt? Consider opening a Holiday Club account to start saving now. Build your savings throughout the year, and on November 1 your balance will be available for holiday shopping. This account earns a higher dividend than a regular savings account and can help you avoid future credit card debt. Learn about our Holiday Club account at msgcu.org/holiday.

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may be higher, based on term of loan, credit score, collateral, and loan to value. Ask an MSGCU Representative for details. [^]3.99% APR for 6 months on balance transfers only. Interest will begin accruing from the time of the transfer. No balance transfer fees. Members can make multiple transfers up to available credit limit. Standard APR applies beginning 6 months from date of the first balance transfer. Eligible on Titanium Visa Credit Card, Rewards Visa Credit Card, and Classic Visa Credit Card. Available to new and existing MSGCU cardholders. No minimum or maximum transfer amount is required. Transfer up to available credit limit. Offer valid 1/6/2025- 6/30/2025.



Follow us on social!

MSGCU is now on Instagram and you can follow us [@MSGCUOfficial](https://www.instagram.com/MSGCUOfficial) for scam alerts, new branch updates, tips to save money, and more. You can also connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter/X.

Holiday closings

New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 20

Presidents Day
Monday, February 17

Save the date for the
Annual Meeting
6 PM on Thursday, April 17
Clinton Township Branch Office

Anyone in Michigan can bank with us.



Visit a branch in person or virtually

Find your nearest branch, make an appointment or use Video Banking at msgcu.org/locations

Mon–Wed: 9 AM–5 PM
Thu–Fri: 9 AM–6 PM
Sat: 9 AM–1 PM



Find us online

It's easy to keep in touch.
msgcu.org/contact-us

Live Chat: msgcu.org/chat
Mon–Fri: 8 AM–8 PM
Sat: 9 AM–1 PM



Call or text

Phone: **(586) 263-8800**
Toll Free or Text: **(866) 674-2848**
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Thu: 8 AM–6 PM
Fri: 8 AM–7 PM
Sat: 8 AM–1 PM



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