



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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American 1 Credit Union Awards \$7,500 Through Annual Grant Program to Empower Local Educators

Jackson, Mich. (Sept. 30, 2026) – American 1 Credit Union is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 Annual Teacher Grant Program, awarding a total of \$7,500 to 15 local educators. Each teacher will receive a \$500 grant to address classroom needs and improvements, enriching learning experiences for students throughout the communities American 1 serves.

“American 1 is committed to advancing financial wellness throughout the communities we serve, and that commitment includes investing in local educators and schools,” said Haley Hemmig, Community Partnership Manager at American 1 Credit Union. “These grants help ease the out-of-pocket costs teachers often face while giving them added resources to bring creative, meaningful learning experiences into their classrooms.”

Since its inception in 2004, the American 1 Educational Grant program has awarded \$307K in grants and scholarships to 318 teachers and students from Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Calhoun, and Washtenaw counties. The Teacher Grant Program reflects the credit union’s dedication to community outreach and its mission of enriching the communities it serves through financial wellness, member-focused solutions, and meaningful partnerships.

“We continually seek purposeful opportunities to strengthen our communities,” said Kelly Grygiel, Vice President of Communications at American 1 Credit Union. “Through these teacher grants, we can invest directly in education and provide local educators with additional resources to create meaningful learning opportunities for their students.”

The recipients of the American 1 Teacher Grants are:

- Jessica Leeland, Sharp Park Academy, Jackson
- Meghan Bouman, Ezra Eby Elementary, Jackson
- Kayla Taylor, Concord High School, Jackson
- Elizabeth Dake, da Vinci Middle School, Jackson
- Carrie Strong, Davis Intermediate School, Hillsdale
- Michelle R. Barr-Milnes, Hillsdale High School, Hillsdale
- Brett Kerspilo, Reading High School, Hillsdale
- Stephanie Little, Luter C. Klager Elementary, Washtenaw
- Christopher Maxwell Smith, Blissfield Middle School, Lenawee
- Madeline Conrad, Blissfield Middle School, Lenawee
- Erika Scheu-Millek, Sand Creek Jr./Sr. High School, Lenawee
- April Jones, Springfield Middle School, Calhoun
- Ashleigh Stauffer, Prairieview Elementary School, Calhoun
- Sidney Flores, Marshall Opportunity High School, Calhoun
- Jason Griffith, Marshall High School, Calhoun

In addition to supporting educators through the Teacher Grant Program, American 1 partners with local schools and youth organizations to provide financial education that helps students build skills for long-term success. Together, these efforts reflect the credit union’s broader commitment to strengthening education and enriching the communities it serves.

To learn more about American 1 Credit Union and its commitment to community engagement, visit American1CU.org.

About American 1 Credit Union

Established in 1950, American 1 Credit Union proudly serves over 68,000 members with the support of more than 280 employees and 16 branch locations across Jackson, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Washtenaw, and Calhoun counties. Now in its 76th year, American 1 Credit Union remains committed to creating financial wellness through personal, everyday banking in the communities it serves. For more information, visit American1CU.org.

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