



MEMBER NOTES

News for Members of Michigan Educational Credit Union

JANUARY 2026



MISSION STATEMENT

*"To provide members with
quality, comprehensive, cost
effective financial services"*

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Get Back On Your Feet This Winter!



Did your holiday spending snowball out of control? MECU can help you get back on your feet with the Winter Wrap-Up Loan!

Our Winter Wrap-Up Loan is a great way to consolidate your high-rate bills into one monthly payment with rates **as low as 8.95% APR.*** Besides bill consolidation, this affordable loan can be used for home improvement projects, a winter getaway, educational expenses and much more. You can borrow up to \$10,000, with repayment terms up to 60 months.

This special offer ends **February 28, 2026**, so don't delay! Contact the Loan Department to make your loan request or apply online at www.michedcu.org or through Digital Banking.

*Annual Percentage Rate effective January 1 through February 28, 2026. Rate based on approved credit and credit union relationship. Winter Wrap-Up Loan not available for refinancing existing MECU loans. Qualification for unsecured credit required. Payment example: A \$10,000 loan over 60 months would have monthly payments of \$20.73 per thousand borrowed.

Protect What Matters Most In 2026

Make this the year you take charge of your financial future.

At Michigan Educational Credit Union, we believe financial wellness means more than managing money. It's about protecting your family and your legacy. That's why we've partnered with Legal Karma, a trusted provider of modern, affordable estate planning services.

Whether you're starting a family, preparing for retirement, or organizing finances for tax season, Legal Karma makes it easy to build a plan that fits your life.

Through Legal Karma, you can:

- Create a Will or Trust online – quickly and securely
- Name guardians for your children or pets
- Protect your home, savings, and other assets
- Avoid probate and simplify the process for loved ones

Peace of mind starts here.

Estate planning helps ensure your wishes are honored and your loved ones are supported, no matter what life brings. With Legal Karma, you'll get clear guidance, step-by-step instructions, and unlimited support along the way.

As an MECU member, you have access to everything you need to make smart, lasting choices for your future. Call our Dedicated Member Support Team through Legal Karma today at **(734) 887-1426**.

Estate planning is an important step, and we're here to make the process simple and accessible. While we provide tools to help you create an estate plan, we are not a law firm and do not offer legal advice. Using our service is not a substitute for a lawyer and does not create an attorney-client relationship. If you have complex legal questions or need personalized advice, we encourage you to consult a licensed attorney.





LET'S PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

Our wealth advisors can help you select an investment plan to address your individual goals and objectives.

- Retirement Planning
- Financial Planning
- Rollover Services
- IRAs
- 401(k) & 403(b)

Serving All MECU Locations
(734) 416-5025
mecuadvisors.com



Bill Knudsen
Wealth Advisor



Paul Schmidt
Wealth Advisor

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Not Insured by NCUA or Any Other Government Agency
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May Lose Value

Michigan Educational Credit Union ("Financial Institution") provides referrals to financial professionals of LPL Financial LLC ("LPL") pursuant to an agreement that allows LPL to pay the Financial Institution for these referrals. This creates an incentive for the Financial Institution to make these referrals, resulting in a conflict of interest. The Financial Institution is not a current client of LPL for brokerage or advisory services.

Please visit <https://www.lpl.com/disclosures/is-lpl-relationship-disclosure.html> for more detailed information.

CEO Update

It's a new year and a time for new beginnings at Michigan Educational Credit Union. After 32 years of service and 16 years as President & Chief Executive Officer, Bob Sandercock will start his well-deserved retirement in February.

My name is Jeff Cusmano, and I'm honored to introduce myself as MECU's new President & CEO. Bob's vision and dedication have left a lasting impact on this organization, and I hope to live up to the high standards he has set. I'd like to thank Bob for his guidance and mentorship. I'd also like to thank the Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity and the confidence they have for me to lead MECU in the coming years.

I joined the MECU team in 2004, when then President & CEO Bill Brunton brought me on board as the Business Development Representative. I'm so grateful that he gave me the opportunity. I gained a great deal of experience in that position, building and growing relationships over the years with local school and community leaders.

In 2010, I was promoted to Vice President. Since then, I've taken a hands-on approach to learning multiple facets of what it takes to run this organization from an executive level. I've overseen many key initiatives over the years, including the expansion to community membership in 2012, the ongoing modernization of our digital platforms and services, and the growth and enhancement of our payment systems.

Since its founding in 1942, MECU has been dedicated to serving the financial needs of its members. As I begin my tenure as President & CEO, I will remain focused on this core mission. While the technology may have changed and continues to evolve, the goal remains the same – to provide our members with cost-effective, modern financial solutions and exceptional service.



Jeff Cusmano

Transfer Your Balances To A Better Card

Retail store credit cards can be tempting, especially during the holiday shopping season. They entice you with coupons or special offers to save you money the day you sign up. But in the long run, it could cost you a lot more. According to *Bankrate*, the average interest rate on store cards is now over 30% APR!

Are you carrying balances on high-rate credit cards? Transfer them to an MECU card and start saving money today. If you can't pay off your balance each month, at least you'll be paying a significantly lower interest rate. Best of all, MECU doesn't charge fees for balance transfers. Most credit card issuers charge a balance transfer fee of 3% to 5% of the amount transferred, which only adds more to your debt.

If you don't have an MECU credit card yet, this is a great time to apply. Choose from our **World Rewards Mastercard®** or our **Platinum Mastercard**. Both provide a wide range of valuable features and benefits,

including a special 3.99% APR* balance transfer offer for new cardholders. The rate applies to all balance transfers within the first 90 days and is valid for 365 days from the account open date. After that, the rate will revert to the current effective rate on your card.

To transfer your high-rate balances or to apply for an MECU credit card, go to www.michedcu.org or give us a call at **(734) 455-9200** or toll-free **(888) 261-3355**. You can even transfer credit card balances under your credit card account within Digital Banking.

* Annual Percentage Rate. The 3.99% promotional rate is valid on all balance transfers that take place within 90 days of the account open date and is valid for 365 days from the account open date. After that, the rate will revert to the current effective rate on your card. Refer to your original account disclosure for details. Balance transfers are processed for the amount requested, or up to your available credit limit. Payments to your transferring account should be made until the account is confirmed paid in full. Michigan Educational Credit Union takes no responsibility for additional finance charges, fees and transactions posting to your transferring account. This offer applies only to accounts in good standing. This offer cannot be used to pay off existing MECU loans.



Do This, Not That: Plan Your 2026 Finances

According to a recent *WalletHub* survey, nearly 3 in 4 people say their financial situation impacts their mental well-being, and 69% of Americans feel insecure about their finances. It is no wonder so many of us are tired of traditional “new year, new budget” advice. Financial wellness does not have to mean strict spreadsheets. It is about taking small, actionable steps to feel more in control.

Do This: Review your spending patterns

Not That: Start with a strict budget

Take a week to observe how you actually spend.

Look at your bank statements and credit card bills to spot patterns. Are subscriptions you no longer use still draining your account? Are grocery runs adding up to more than you realize? When you understand where your money is really going, you can make small, realistic adjustments – like shopping for generic brands or switching streaming services seasonally. Real progress beats rigid plans every time.

Do This: Automate what you can

Not That: Rely on willpower to save

If you have ever meant to transfer money into savings but forgot (again), automation can save you from yourself. Schedule automatic transfers to savings on payday, set up direct deposit to savings, or set up autopay for bills to avoid late fees. This trick works because it removes temptation and decision fatigue – two major barriers to saving consistently. Even a small automatic transfer adds up over time. Think of it as paying your future self first.

Do This: Build an emergency cushion

Not That: Wait until you can save “enough”

A full emergency fund (three to six months of expenses) sounds great on paper and can feel impossible when money is tight. Start smaller. Even \$20 a week builds momentum. Keep it in an easy-access account, separate from other money, so it does not get mixed with daily spending. This cushion helps protect you from unexpected costs – a car repair, a surprise bill, or even a missed paycheck – and gives you confidence that you can handle what comes your way.

Do This: Plan for joy – not just bills

Not That: Treat fun as “extra” or “unnecessary”

Your budget should not just be about survival. Planning ahead for things that bring you joy, like a family outing, a weekend getaway, or even a nice meal out, keeps your financial plan sustainable. When you budget for joy and happiness, you are less likely to fall into guilt spending or burnout later.

Do This: Check your credit and debt picture

Not That: Avoid it because it feels stressful

It is tempting to look away from debt; however, facing it head-on is the first step to taking control. Pull your free credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com and review all your balances, interest rates, and due dates. Focus on paying off the smallest balance first (the “snowball” method) to build momentum or tackle the highest-interest debt first (the “avalanche” method) to save money over time.

Do This: Seek trusted support

Not That: Navigate your finances alone

You don’t have to have every answer to feel financially confident. MECU offers budgeting tools and savings programs to help you get started. If you’re dealing with debt, you’re not alone. Through MECU’s partnership with GreenPath, you have access to free financial counseling and a proven Debt Management Program designed to lower interest rates, reduce payments, and reduce your stress in the coming year. For more information, call GreenPath at **877-337-3399** or go to greenpath.com/partner/michedu.



Withholding Notice For IRA Owners

Payments from your IRA are subject to federal income tax withholding, unless you elect no withholding.

You may change your withholding election at any time prior to your receipt of a payment. To change your withholding election, complete the appropriate form, which MECU can provide to you.

Withholding from IRA payments, when combined with other withholding, MAY relieve you from payment of estimated income taxes. However, your withholding election does not affect the amount of income tax you pay.

You may incur penalties under the estimated tax rules if your withholding and estimated tax payments are insufficient.

Deposit Account Rates

For current deposit rates, including Share Savings, Draft/Checking, IRAs, and Share Certificates, scan the QR code below or contact MECU!





Clean House With The Power Of Equity

Get off to a fresh financial start this year by consolidating your debt into one affordable monthly payment with Home Equity financing.

At MECU, you can choose from a variable-rate Home Equity Line of Credit, with monthly payments as low as \$9.00 per thousand borrowed, or a closed-end, fixed-rate Home Equity Loan. Either way, loan amounts start at \$10,000 with NO CLOSING COSTS* and possible tax savings (please consult your tax advisor).

Besides bill consolidation, Home Equity is a great way to finance home renovations, educational expenses, vacations and more. For details and to apply, contact the Loan Department at any MECU office today or go to www.michedcu.org.

* Home Equity Line of Credit loan payments based on \$9 or \$12 per thousand. Example: \$10,000 loan, \$9 per \$1,000 selected, \$90 monthly payment. Minimum Line of Credit amount \$10,000. Maximum Line of Credit amount \$200,000. The maximum APR that can apply is 18%. Maximum LTV 90%. Properties only located in the state of Michigan. Certain circumstances may require closing costs.

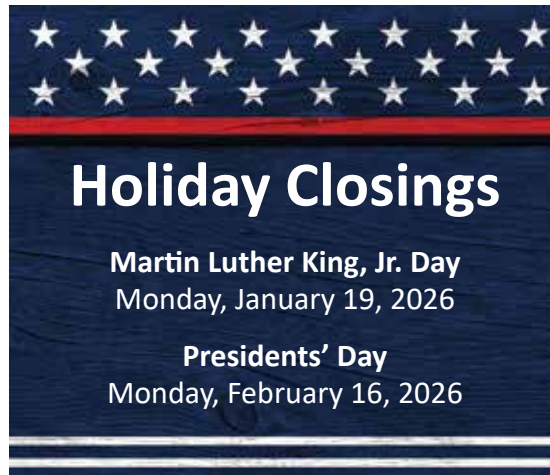
Heading Out Of Town? Let Us Know!

Are you planning a winter or spring getaway? If you're traveling outside of your normal shopping area and will be accessing your MECU account by ATM, debit card or credit card, please contact us to avoid having your accounts flagged for unusual activity. Please be sure to indicate your travel destination(s) and the duration of your travel.

You can submit a Travel Notice by contacting us through any of the below methods:

- Submit a form within Digital Banking.
- Submit a form on the "Contact Us" page of our website.
- Send us an email at general@michedcu.org.
- Call any MECU branch office.

Thank you for helping us keep your accounts safe and secure. Happy travels!



Always Great Auto Loan Rates!

2026-2001 Automobiles (100% Financed)

Classic Cars (25 Years and Older)

College/Trade School Grad or Active Military Discount – 2024 and 2025 graduates and active military service members can save .25% off MECU's current auto loan rates. Ask for details.



For current rates, contact the Loan Department at any MECU office or scan the QR code above!



Website: www.michedcu.org
E-Mail: general@michedcu.org

Toll-Free Phone:
(888) 261-3355
(Outside Metro Detroit area)

Office Hours:
9:30-5:30 Monday-Friday

Phone Service:
9:15-5:30 Monday-Friday

Plymouth Office:
9200 Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
Phone: (734) 455-9200

Livonia Office:
14921 Middlebelt Road
Livonia, MI 48154
Phone: (734) 261-1050

Ann Arbor Office:
4141 Jackson Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: (734) 761-7505

Brighton Office:
123 Brighton Lake Road,
Suite 102 (in Pinehollow Place)
Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: (810) 494-6000

Royal Oak Office:
1903 Rochester Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073
Phone: (248) 399-7473

Macomb Office:
47230 Hayes Road
Macomb, MI 48044
Phone: (586) 566-5599

CO-OP Shared Branch & Surcharge-Free ATM Locations
co-opcreditunions.org/locator
or text a zip code to: 91989

Mortgages:
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