



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LAFCU accepting entries for \$20K in college scholarships

*High school seniors can submit 1-page essay beginning Feb. 1 as part of credit union's Write to Educate Essay Contest*

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU is now accepting submissions for its 2023 Write to Educate Essay Contest. The contest awards four high school seniors a total of \$20,000 and donates \$2,000 to local charities on their behalf.

Each winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to an accredited Michigan college or university and will designate another \$500 from LAFCU to a local charity. Entries must be submitted online by March 31, 2023.

"This contest is an incredible opportunity for high school seniors to not only earn money to help fund their college education, but also to reflect on their high school experience and successes, as well as their future plans," said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer.



Winners of the 2022 LAFCU Write to Educate Essay Contest are, clockwise from top left, Aanchal Jain, Berelian Karimian, Gavin Isles and Mori Rothhorn.

A one-page essay will be used to determine the winners. Academic performance and financial need are not considered in the selection process. Michigan high school students can enter regardless of whether they are members of LAFCU. Additional information is available at [www.lafcu.com/writetoeducate](http://www.lafcu.com/writetoeducate).

"This contest is also extremely unique in that winners are chosen not on the basis of their income or grades, but rather on their ability to effectively share their personal experience and story," said Ellsworth

Etchison. "The charitable donations and contributions

made on behalf of these exceptional students support the credit union philosophy of ‘people helping people’ and demonstrate the importance of supporting the next generation of professionals and leaders.”

Winning essays will be published in the Lansing State Journal, community sponsor of the contest.

The 2022 winners include Aanchal Jain and Berelian Karimian, Okemos; Gavin Isles, Bannister; and Mori Rothhorn, Lansing. Their selection was based on a one-page essay that examined their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic.

### **About LAFCU**

Chartered in 1936, LAFCU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative open for membership to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Michigan and to businesses and other entities located in Michigan. The credit union serves 74,000 members and holds over \$973 million in assets. It was named a Best Credit Union to Work For in 2020.

LAFCU offers a comprehensive range of financial products and services as well as an expanding complement of financial technology solutions. Members enjoy benefits such as low fees, low interest rates on loans, high yields on savings, discounts, knowledgeable employees and nationwide access to fee-free ATMs. A recipient of the national Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award for credit unions, LAFCU enriches the communities it serves by supporting many organizations and causes. To learn more about LAFCU, call 800.748.0228 or visit [www.lafcu.com](http://www.lafcu.com).

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The Lansing State Journal is the community sponsor of the 2023 LAFCU Write to Educate Essay Contest.