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LAFCU awards \$2,500 LCC scholarship to high school senior

Recipient selects child abuse prevention charity for \$500 donation

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU has awarded its 2015 “Write to Educate” \$2,500 college scholarship to Hadleigh Buchler, of Jackson and a recent graduate of Northwest High School. As part of the contest award, the winner selects a charity to receive a \$500 donation from LAFCU. Buchler chose the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Shiawassee County.

Buchler, the daughter of Scott and Janelle Buchler of Jackson, will use the Lansing Community College (LCC) scholarship to pursue a degree in education to become a teacher.

Selecting the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Shiawassee County for the LAFCU donation was an easy decision for Buchler. In her volunteer work as a mentor, she has observed the struggles that children face when they don’t have an encouraging homelife. The council helps protect children from violence, neglect, trauma and pain so they can grow into healthy, strong, well-adjusted adults. Included in council services are abuse prevention education and other resources for families in Shiawassee County.

“This contest is one example of LAFCU’s dedication to be a positive factor in strengthening our community,” said Kelli A. Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU



LAFCU 2015 Write to Educate JA – Recent Northwest High School graduate Hadleigh Buchler, and her mother, Janelle Buchler, pictured together center, receive the framed essay that won Hadleigh the 2015 LAFCU Write to Education scholarship contest. Presenters were Angie Ruzinsky, LAFCU regional vice president, at left, and, Kelli A. Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU vice president of community and business development.



LAFCU 2015 Write to Educate OW – Hadleigh Buchler, third from right, presents a ceremonial check to the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Shiawassee County that represents a \$500 donation on behalf of LAFCU. Also pictured at the award presentation are LAFCU’s Angie Ruzinsky and Kelli A. Ellsworth Etchison, and the council’s Ellen Lynch, Marvel Mulholland and Rae-Ann Hartsuff. Buchler selected the council to receive the LAFCU donation as part of the award package for winning the 2015 LAFCU Write to Educate Scholarship contest. She also received a \$2,500 scholarship to attend LCC.

vice president of community and business development. “It makes higher education more affordable for a graduating high school senior, and it demonstrates the importance of helping one’s community through the give-back component.”

The LAFCU Write to Educate scholarship

contest winner was selected based on a one-page essay about social media and its effects on real-life relationships.

Buchler noted in her essay that social media has provided an additional way to get to know others, versus spending time with one another or just communicating verbally by phone. However not all of social media is positive.

“Social media allows people to hide behind their screens and portray false images or post hurtful and untrue things,” Buchler said. “It can also make some feel as if their lives are inadequate.

“All of this can be especially hurtful to teens who are developing their own self image. Wouldn’t it be amazing if we only used social media to build stronger, healthier relationships and bring people together instead of tearing them apart?”

Buchler’s winning essay is posted on the LAFCU website, www.lafcu.com/scholarships/write-to-educate-scholarship.

Applicants for the LAFCU Write to Educate scholarship must have been a senior in a high school within the LAFCU service territory, which includes the counties of Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Livingston, Montcalm and Shiawassee.

Chartered in 1936, LAFCU is proud to be mid-Michigan’s credit union, serving the counties of Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Livingston, Montcalm and Shiawassee. A recipient of the Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award, LAFCU takes pride in bringing value to the financial lives of its members, neighbors, families and community. Offering a comprehensive range of personal and business financial products, LAFCU provides services that include checking and savings accounts, auto and mortgage lending, business accounts and business lending. LAFCU serves nearly 60,000 members, holds nearly \$600 million in assets, and maintains nine locations throughout Greater Lansing and the counties of Clinton and Shiawassee. Anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in its designated counties is eligible to join. Members enjoy benefits, such as lower interest rates on



LAFCU 2015 Write to Educate LCC – On hand for the presentation of the 2015 LAFCU Write to Educate Scholarship are Ellen Lynch and Marvel Mulholland, with the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Shiawassee County, LAFCU’s Alyssa Sliger, Angie Ruzinsky and Kelli A. Ellsworth Etchison, scholarship recipient Hadleigh Buchler, LCC’s Peggy Hellwig, and the council’s Rae-Ann Hartsuff.

loans, higher yields on savings, insurance discounts, preferred seating for LAFCU-sponsored events, and access to 28,000 surcharge-free ATMs through the CO-OP ATM network. LAFCU supports and enriches mid-Michigan by donating funds and employee volunteer hours to many organizations and causes. To learn more about LAFCU, please call 517.622.6600 or find us online:

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