



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two photos sent as attachments

Captions below release

LAFCU's Kelli Ellsworth Etchison receives prestigious national award for service to Greater Lansing

LANSING, Mich. — Kelli Ellsworth Etchison has been awarded the prestigious National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club (GLAC) on the occasion of GLAC's 35th anniversary. It's the highest award given by affiliates of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc.

The award recognizes Ellsworth Etchison's ongoing contributions to the betterment of the Greater Lansing community. She serves as LAFCU senior vice president of marketing.

"You can always find Kelli providing support through her time, talents and financial giving," said Renee Morgan Freeman, GLAC recording secretary. "She genuinely cares about the community in which she works and plays. Kelli truly merits this respected award as well as the heartfelt gratitude of GLAC leadership and its membership for her contributions to the community."

Ellsworth Etchison said, "Few things are more gratifying to me than helping others and making life better for those in my community. There are many wonderful people who feel that way, too, so I am especially honored to receive the Sojourner Truth Award and to even be remotely associated with Ms. Truth."

Sojourner Truth, 1797-1883, escaped slavery as a young adult and became one of the foremost leaders of the abolition movement, also advocating for women's rights, prison reform, property rights and universal suffrage, among others. The Smithsonian magazine included her in the 2014 list of the 100 most significant Americans of all time.



Betty E. Barry, left, presented the Greater Lansing Area Club's highest honor, the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award, to Kelli Ellsworth Etchison for her ongoing contributions to the betterment of the Greater Lansing community. Barry is the club's first vice president.



Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, front row, fifth from right, was honored by the Greater Lansing Area Club for her ongoing contributions to the betterment of the Greater Lansing community. Among the club members pictured is Betty E. Barry, left of Ellsworth Etchison, who is the club's first vice president.

Ellsworth Etchison's volunteerism spans from serving on the cleaning committee at her church, Rivers of Life Church, Holt, for 10 years to being tapped as the first African-American female board chairperson for the YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing. Other community organizations for which she has held or holds

leadership positions include the Lansing Community College Foundation Board of Directors, Greater Lansing Area Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, Capital Area United Way, Rotary Club of Lansing and the Mayor's Drug Free Youth Committee.

She even lent her talent to the Dancing with the Local Stars community fundraiser for Care Free Medical where she and her dance partner won the championship mirror ball.

An ardent advocate of education, Ellsworth Etchison has focused much of LAFUCU's programming on youth financial literacy education and has spearheaded college scholarship programs, providing thousands of dollars for education to women and military-affiliated students of all ages.

In her current role at LAFUCU, Ellsworth Etchison manages marketing and public relations activities, and the internship and member education programs; develops and supports strategic initiatives; and assists with product and service development.

About LAFUCU

Chartered in 1936, LAFUCU 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, LAFUCU 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, LAFUCU provides services that include checking and savings accounts, auto and mortgage lending, business accounts and business lending. LAFUCU serves nearly 60,000 members, holds more than \$600 million in assets, and maintains nine locations throughout Greater Lansing and Shiawassee County. 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 loans, higher yields on savings, insurance discounts, preferred seating for LAFUCU-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:

- Website: www.lafcu.com
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