



Giving Back

Official Newsletter of the Illinois Credit Union Foundation

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Celebrating Melanie Murphy's Legacy of Service

After 36 years with the Illinois Credit Union System, Melanie Murphy retired at the end of May, leaving behind an incredible legacy of leadership, collaboration, and service to the credit union movement.

Throughout her career, Melanie championed programs that strengthened credit unions and the communities they serve while embodying the philosophy of people helping people. Her impact on the Illinois Credit Union Foundation and across the Illinois credit union community will be felt for years to come.

We know many throughout the Illinois credit union community join us in thanking Melanie for her years of service and wishing her happiness in retirement. Colleagues and friends are invited to [connect with Melanie on LinkedIn](#) and share their well wishes as she begins this next chapter.



John Fiore Golf Classic - Registration Open

Join us for the John Fiore Golf Classic on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at Bliss Creek Golf Course in Sugar Grove. [Click here for the registration form.](#)

Women's Leadership Workshop Series

The Illinois Sister Society is hosting a FREE 3-part virtual workshop series featuring Amber Swenor, Jennifer Pestikas, and Courtney Blankenship.

Thanks to support from the Illinois Credit Union Foundation, registration is *completely free!*

June 9 | 2:00–3:00 PM

Amber Swenor

Authentic Leadership Unleashed! From Collaboration to Integration

July 7 | 2:00–3:00 PM

Jennifer Pestikas

From Imposter to Advocate: Owning Your Value

July 23 | 2:00–3:00 PM

Courtney Blankenship

Taking 100% Responsibility for Who You Are

The series begins June 9. [Register Today!](#)



\$500,000 NCUF Grants Available Financial Well-Being Programs for At-Risk Youth

The National Credit Union Foundation is accepting applications from credit unions to support credit unions implementing or expanding financial well-being programs for at-risk youth. This funding opportunity is open to credit unions of any asset size that demonstrate readiness to serve at-risk youth through tailored financial education, trusted community partnerships, and accessible products and services. The application deadline is June 26, 2026. Learn more: [At-Risk Youth Financial Well-Being Grant - NCUF](#)

ICUF & Envisant Co-Sponsor 2026 1-to-1 Woman Mentoring Program – Apply Today!

The ICU Foundation and Envisant are co-sponsoring a cohort for the 1to1Woman Mentoring Program which will take place August – October 2026. [Check out the details online](#). [Interested mentees](#) and [interested mentors](#) please complete the prospective interest form **by July 17, 2026** to let us know you would like to be a part of this cohort.

2026 CUFEN Conference – July 26-29

The [Credit Union Financial Education Network \(CUFEN\)](#) will host its annual conference July 26-29, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas. CUFEN, formerly known as the National Youth Involvement Board, expanded its mission and purpose from youth financial education to reaching all ages with financial education. In addition to their annual conference, the group also collects data regarding the number of financial education presentations conducted by credit unions.

CU FinHealth – September 22-23 – Registration Open

Registration is open for [CU FinHealth](#), co-hosted by the ICU Foundation, is set for September 22-23, 2026 in Denver, CO. This hands-on conference is designed to help you take actionable steps on your financial health journey—whether you're just starting or looking to build on existing efforts. It focuses on how credit unions are driving financial health across their organizations, measuring success, addressing key issues, and taking impactful actions to improve financial well-being for employees, members, and communities.



Scholarships are available from the ICU Foundation for this event!

REMINDEERS

ICUF Enhanced FiCEP 2026

Registration for the ICU Foundation's Enhanced FiCEP Program main cohort ended on February 27. Individuals who want to participate in the program during the remainder of the year can still sign up by selecting "other" for the start date. **Need to recertify?** We've got you covered with a discounted registration fee. [FiCEP 2026 Information & Registration online](#)

ICUF Scholarships & Grants

The ICU Foundation offers Grants of up to \$10,000 to cover a wide variety of projects to help credit unions grow and expand their services. ICU Foundation Scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education programs. All ICUL-affiliated CUs are eligible, and applications are accepted year-round. We encourage you to apply early in the year since funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. [Check out the scholarship & grant details online](#).

Reality Fair Programs

Teen Reality Fairs teach students how to manage money and the importance of a budget or spending plan. The Bite of Reality program and resources, offered by the ICU Foundation at no cost to credit unions, is available in a variety of formats (app-based, computer-accessible, and paper packets) The App and merchant/booth sheets are available in Spanish. **Retirement Reality Fairs** are similar to Teen Fairs except the participants can use their real-life situations instead of pretend scenarios when planning for the future. The Retire on Track program and resources are provided by the ICU Foundation at no cost to credit unions. [Learn about Reality Fairs & Access FREE Resources](#)

Interact With Peers

- **ICUL Financial Education Peer Group** – The Illinois Credit Union League offers a Communities feature on its website which enables peer group members to ask questions and share information with one another. [Check it out today!](#)
- **Credit Union Foundations Network** – A networking group for credit union leaders that are managing, leading, or looking to launch a grant-making foundation in association with their credit union. CUs from throughout the country gather for monthly virtual meetings to discuss their work. [Join their LinkedIn Group here.](#)

- **Financial Well-Being Connection** – A networking group for financial well-being practitioners, especially coaches, counselors, and trainers. CUs from throughout the country gather for monthly virtual meetings to discuss their work. Register for their meetings. [Join their LinkedIn Group here.](#)

ICUF Commemorative Awards

The ICU Foundation’s Commemorative Program is a moving way to acknowledge a special person or credit union, while also supporting the credit union movement. Honor an individual’s memory, recognize a colleague’s professional accomplishments or celebrate your credit union’s milestones. [Learn more and check out the video highlighting 2025 awards.](#)

2026 Events & Important Dates

September 2	Golf Outing – Bliss Creek Golf Course (Sugar Grove) <i>Get together with us for a fun-filled golf scramble!</i>
September 22-23	CU FinHealth Conference (Denver) <i>Join us for the premier conference for credit union financial health practitioners</i>
October 23	Annual Raffle Drawing – Hilton Chicago & Towers <i>Live drawing is held in the Exhibit Hall</i>
November 17	ICUF Reality Fair Workshop (Springfield) <i>Learn how to incorporate experiential learning into your financial education programs</i>
January 1 to December 31	Foundation’s Annual Support Campaign <i>Our most important fundraiser which provides unrestricted support to the Foundation – donations accepted year-round</i>

ICU Foundation Board of Directors

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