



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union Gives Away \$27k in Scholarships to 27 Michigan Students**

Michigan—Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union (AAACU) recently gave away \$27,000 to 27 Northeast Michigan students through their annual scholarship program.

AAACU was founded in 1953 to be a financial institution of the people by the people and for the people. Since then, they have grown to ten branches in Alpena, Ossineke, Posen, Lincoln, Rogers City, Atlanta, Oscoda, Tawas City and Cheboygan. Since their founding, AAACU has grown to be state chartered, meaning anyone who lives, works or worships in the State of Michigan is eligible to be a member at Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union.

The credit union's mission is to be their members' most trusted and valued financial partner for life. The scholarship program is a part of that mission. Each year, AAACU aims to provide at least ten \$1000.00 scholarships to students residing in Alpena, Alcona, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, and/or Presque Isle County. This year the credit union expanded scholarship eligibility to any graduating senior or 13<sup>th</sup> year program student in the State of Michigan. A total of 48 students applied, and the AAACU Scholarship Committee raised the maximum number of scholarships to be awarded for a record of 27 recipients in 2026. The students selected come from schools across Michigan and have a wide range of future plans, from four year universities to trade school and more.

The students selected to receive this year's scholarships are as follows: **From Alcona Community Schools:** *Addison Beatty, Cole Upper and Rilee Tracy*; **From Atlanta Community Schools:** *Valerie Binge*; **From Alpena High School:** *Addison Wesaw, Garrett Hamp, Gunner Moe, Gus Wirgau, Isabelle Kocan, Izzy Szymanski, Jack Caplis, Laura Poli and Reaghan Fitzpatrick*; **From Cheboygan High School:** *Caleigh Easter, Kyleigh Burt and Madalyn Schlak*; **From Hillman High School:** *Gretchen Weiland*; **From Oscoda Area High School:** *Addison Russo and Maria Fulco*; **From Posen Consolidated Schools:** *Alyssa Smigelski and Ella Hincka*; **From Rogers City High School:** *Chelsea Nicole Myers and Chelsie Jo Bielias*; **From South Lyon High School:** *Max Bardonj*; **From Tawas Area High School:** *Ava Briggs, Hailey Felske and Hannah Potts*.

AAACU's Scholarship Program is made possible by our Community Investment Fund. These funds are comprised of dollars donated back into our communities thanks to credit union members who choose to receive their monthly statements electronically. The credit union pledges to donate \$9.00 annually for each of these e-statements accounts. In 2026, AAACU will donate up to \$320,406.00 back into the communities they serve.



*AAACU is a state-chartered credit union with membership eligibility open to any resident in the state of Michigan. As of May 31, 2026, AAACU provides service to 50,021 members with total assets equal to \$977,224,190.*