



**CMG Scholarship:
Education Support for Small Credit Unions**

Alloya Corporate FCU recently announced that the Christine M. Gross (CMG) Scholarship has been made available to member credit unions that are under \$20 million in assets.

Beginning in June 2014, the corporate started to offer scholarship opportunities to members to attend state annual meetings and conventions. With 10 states considered as core markets, the corporate expects to award 10 different scholarships by June of 2015. The CMG Scholarship covers the recipient's state convention registration fees as well as hotel and travel expenses.

"This wonderful scholarship truly embodies Alloya's commitment to providing education to all members, while continuing to champion Christine's memory and her passion for credit unions," said Alloya's Jackie Carlson, Vice President, Member Relations.

As of July 2014, the CMG Scholarship has been awarded to three members, including:

1. SODES Federal Credit Union, Aberdeen, South Dakota

(Attended the Dakota's Summit held on June 4-6.)

"Thanks to the CMG Scholarship, I was able to participate in training and experience all of the many vendors that were housed under one roof. And of course, the networking and open dialog with peers proved to be very valuable," said Jessica Kroll, Manager of SODES FCU. "I gained some great information that I can take back and implement at my credit union."

2. Sterling Heights Community Federal Credit Union, Sterling Heights, Michigan

(Attended the Michigan Credit Union League's Annual Convention and Expo held on June 5-7.)

"Without the CMG Scholarship, there would have been no way for us to attend the Annual Convention and Expo," said Melody Derbin, General Manager for Sterling Heights Community FCU. "This experience was extremely valuable to me and for the credit union. Being able to network with peers and attend the breakout sessions helped me gain tremendous knowledge that already has been applied. For example: Due to contacts made while I was there, I was able to save the credit union \$3,200 on a task that we were required to perform."

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3. United Neighbors Federal Credit Union, Watertown, New York

(Attended the Credit Union Association of New York's Annual Meeting and Convention held on June 19-22.)

“Winning the CMG scholarship, so that I could attend the Annual Meeting and Convention, was such a blessing,” said Jennifer Baker, Chief Executive Officer/Manager of United Neighbors FCU. “Without the scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to attend and would have missed out on valuable networking opportunities and learning experiences gained from the educational sessions.”

About the scholarship

In January 2001, a cherished corporate employee, Christine M. Gross passed away after a long battle with cancer. Christine was an advocate for all the credit unions she represented as a Senior Business Consultant, but it was small credit unions that held a special place in her heart. The CMG foundation was established and funded by the corporate and its members to assist staff at small credit unions defray the costs of attending educational opportunities.