

# The

# CONNECTOR

FALL 2020

A semi-annual publication for members of UNITE Credit Union.



**WE'VE LOWERED  
LOAN RATES!**

As always, we closely monitor interest rates to ensure loans are accessible and affordable for our members. In spring 2020, we reduced rates\* on auto, consumer and home equity loans. This means you can get a new or used auto loan for as low as **2.79%\*\*** and home equity products as low as **3.50%\*\***.

Conveniently apply for a UNITE loan at [unite-cu.org](https://unite-cu.org), or make an appointment with one of our loan officers to discuss your options before you apply.

\*Loan rates are based on Annual Percentage Rate and are subject to change without notice. \*\*Example loan rates quoted are based on optimal credit score and include the UNITE relationship discount. Borrower's credit score, income and other factors can impact the final loan rate. \*\*All rates reflect Annual Percentage Yield and are subject to change without notice.

## Results of Your 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

At the UNITE Credit Union Annual Meeting on September 14, 2020:



Eboni Springfield was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors. Eboni is a student at the University of Northern Iowa, where she majors in public relations.



Dr. Gayle Pohl also was re-elected to a three-year term on the board. She is an associate professor at UNI and has served the UNITE board since 2017.



Dr. Latricia Hylton was re-elected to a three-year term. She has served the board since 2014 and works as LSAMP coordinator and Strategies for Success instructor at UNI.



Christopher Dieckman was appointed in July to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Mary Christ. He will be up for re-election in April 2021.

Continued on inside...



*Reaching Out to Serve You*

The CONNECTOR is a semi-annual newsletter from UNITE Credit Union, Cedar Falls, Iowa.



**Hours**

Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Thursdays, Fridays  
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays  
9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturdays  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Enjoy 24-hour/7-day  
access:**

- Interactive Website at [www.unite-cu.org](http://www.unite-cu.org)
- FREE Online Banking
- FREE Electronic Statements
- SHAZAM BOLT\$
- MyCardInfo
- Privileged Status ATM Network

**802 W. 29th Street,  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613  
PH: (319) 273-2479  
Toll Free: (844) 443-4474  
FX: (319) 266-3761**

*Dedicated to serving:*

- Faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni & retirees of the University of Northern Iowa
- Faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni & retirees of the Cedar Falls School District
- Employees & retirees of MidAmerican Energy
- Families of all eligible members

**Did you know?**

Equifax, Experian and TransUnion are now offering free weekly online credit reports through April 2021.



# We're Here for You

At UNITE, we try to channel our 2020 frustrations into positive energy. This includes developing service-oriented solutions, policies and products.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

After closing the lobby in March, we reopened in June. By September, the City of Cedar Falls instituted a mandatory face covering policy for all businesses. Throughout it all, we have strived to offer commonsense remote options and accommodations for anyone who needs them.

For details, please check our website. We will keep the lobby open as we're able, and remote services will remain permanent.

**FINANCIAL COACHING**

We also want to help members struggling with existing loans, held at UNITE or elsewhere. Communication is key. If you're concerned about making ends meet, let us know. With early contact, we're better able to identify options and alternatives to possible loan default.

Loan Officer Sara Shaw-Keve and I became Certified Credit Union Financial Coaches, to help UNITE serve you. One of us can review your budget with you, identify cost savings and help create a plan. These services are free to all members. These aren't sales meetings; our goals are to maximize your resources and try to save you money.

**SAVE FOR THE FUTURE**

We encourage saving even a small amount each month, especially during these uncertain times. It's true: Lower interest rates mean you don't earn a high return on savings. However, continued saving is the best way to ensure you have a safety net during difficult times.

To that end, we keep savings rates competitive. We also developed products to make building emergency funds easier and more attainable.

If you believe you can't afford to set aside emergency funds, let us help you create an achievable plan. UNITE offers several options, including recently added certificates of deposit make building contingency funds affordable. One is a three-month add-on CD. We also added a 12-month youth CD, so you can teach children in your life about financial management.

For more information on loans, CDs and Financial Coaching, go to [www.UNITE-CU.org/rates/](http://www.UNITE-CU.org/rates/) or call 319-273-2479.

Sincerely,

Karris Golden  
Your UNITE Credit Union CEO

## 2021 College Scholarship Program Launching in January

Our annual college scholarship program will be offered again starting in January and will run through March 31, 2021. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded, one to a high school senior graduating in spring 2021, and one to a current college student. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, room and board, books and other educational expenses. Entries must be submitted no later than March 31, 2021.

**SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Must be a member of UNITE Credit Union (account must be opened at least 90 days prior to submitting the scholarship application).
2. Must be entering or attending a vocational, technical, community college or 4-year college/university.
3. Must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
4. Write and submit an original essay of approximately 300-500 words on the following topic: "When is the best time to begin teaching children about financial literacy?" (Please explain your answer.)

**Watch our website and social media pages for an announcement in January!**

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## Results of Your 65th Annual Meeting

During the Board of Directors Organizational Meeting on Sept. 21, the board elected to the Executive, Credit and Audit committees. These and other assignments include:

- Chairperson: Melissa Beall  
*(term reelection-April 2022)*
- Vice Chairperson: Dr. Gayle Pohl, who also chairs Nominating Committee *(term reelection-April 2023)*
- Secretary: Christopher Dieckman, who also chairs Personnel Committee *(term reelection-April 2021)*
- Chief Financial Officer: Gary Shontz  
*(term reelection-April 2021)*
- Credit Committee Chairperson: Wilfred “Micky” Johnson  
*(term reelection-April 2021)*
- Credit Committee Secretary: Eboni Springfield  
*(term reelection-April 2023)*
- Audit Committee Chairperson: Linda Nielsen  
*(term reelection-April 2021)*
- Audit Committee Secretary: Latricia Hylton  
*(term reelection-April 2023)*
- Asset-Liability Management Committee Chairperson: William McKinley *(term reelection-April 2022)*

During the Organizational Meeting and in consultation with the Iowa Credit Union Division, the board voted unanimously to reduce the number of director positions from 11 to nine, effective immediately.

The Annual Meeting had originally scheduled its annual meeting for April. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic forced postponement of the meeting, which took place via Zoom on Sept. 14. A meeting notification, ballot and candidate flyer was sent via U.S. Mail to all UNITE members in good standing, aged 16 and older. If you did not receive the notification, please email [memberservices@unite-cu.org](mailto:memberservices@unite-cu.org) or call 319-273-2479 to update your information.

### Save the Date

**The 2021 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12. If you are interested in running for a director position, email Dr. Gayle Pohl at [gayle.pohl@uni.edu](mailto:gayle.pohl@uni.edu).**



## Does Your Family Have a Safety Net?

Life can be wonderful. But it can also get complicated when unexpected things happen.

Protecting your loan balance or loan payments against death, disability or involuntary unemployment could help protect your finances. Life Plus adds protection for financially stressful life events such as accidental dismemberment, terminal illness, hospitalization, family medical leave, and the loss of life of a non-protected dependent. This protection could cancel your loan balance or loan payments up to the contract maximums. Protect your loan payments today so you can worry less about tomorrow.

It's simple to apply for Debt Protection\* and Debt Protection with Life Plus.\* It's voluntary and won't affect your loan approval. Call UNITE at 319-273-2479 to speak with a loan officer and ask about protecting your loan payments today.

*Your purchase of Debt Protection with Life Plus is optional and will not affect your application for credit or the terms of any credit agreement required to obtain a loan. Certain eligibility requirements, conditions, and exclusions may apply. Please contact your loan representative, or refer to the Member Agreement for a full explanation of the terms of Debt Protection with Life Plus. You may cancel the protection at any time. If you cancel protection within 30 days you will receive a full refund of any fee paid.*



802 W. 29th Street  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

*Welcome* to the fall issue  
of your Member-Owner newsletter!  
See inside...

- 65th Annual Meeting Results
- How we're channeling our 2020 frustrations
- College scholarship program coming soon!
- Does your family have a safety net?

## You Should Get to Know... *Dylan Hayden*

Member Service Representative



**Connections:** Senior at University of Northern Iowa, studying marketing with a finance minor

**Background:** I'm from Monticello, Iowa. I came to UNI because of its well-known business program.

**Other jobs:** I also work at Scheels as a Cashier and I work on UNI's campus at the 23rd Street Market as a Student Supervisor.

**Family:** Judy (mom), Mike (dad), Carly (sister) & Brady (brother)

**What do you like about working at UNITE?:** I enjoy meeting all the members and getting to know them on a personal level! The staff is very nice and makes the work environment enjoyable!

**Interesting fact:** I currently work three jobs while being a full-time student at UNI. (Editor's note: Dylan excels at all; he's a tremendous asset to UNITE, UNI and the community!)



## Mark Your Calendars

**Nov. 11:** Closed for Veterans Day

**Nov. 26:** Closed for Thanksgiving

**Nov. 27:** Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Dec. 24:** Close at Noon

**Dec. 25:** Closed for Christmas Day

**Dec. 31:** Close at 3:00 p.m.

**Jan. 1, 2021:** Closed for New Year's Day



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