May 2026

MEMBER INSIGHTS

MONTHLY NEWS FROM YOUR CREDIT UNION

MERCK EMPLOYEES
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, Merck Employees Federal Credit Union names six scholarship recipients at its Annual Meeting. This year's program saw nearly 200 applications from 13 states and the applicants were all incredible students.

Below are the six individuals chosen as the credit union's 2026 winners. We wish all applicants luck in their higher education journeys.



Nicholas Cross
Furlong, PA
Boston College



Graham Heft
New York, NY
Dartmouth College



Surya Kamesh
Elmwood Park, NJ
Undecided



Ella Brynn Kloby
South Plainfield, NJ
Villanova



Jernee Lin
Plainsboro, NJ
Cornell University



David Makowka
Wayne, NJ
U. of Pennsylvania



NEED TO KNOW: FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN CHANGES COMING JULY 1

On July 1, 2026, the federal student loan program will undergo its most significant transformation in decades. Grad PLUS loans will be eliminated, new aggregate caps, Parent PLUS limits and more.

The changes impact:

- Graduate Students
- Parents of Undergraduates
- Professional Program Students
- Part-Time Students of All Levels

We encourage all to download our recently added guide to help you navigate through the borrowing process with these new rules in place. Click here to access the guide.

The credit union started offering private student loans last year by partnering with Lendkey Technologies. The program has proved to be useful for a variety of members including graduate students, undergraduate students and those interested in refinance.



HOME BUYER WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Don't forget to check out the recording of our recent home buyer webinar.

To access the video on YouTube, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6U4NBYnFro&t=1s to access the slides, click here.

ARE YOU USING ALL AVAILABLE ACCOUNT SAFEGUARDS?

Many older adults rely on trusted family members or caregivers to help manage their finances. In fact, more than half of family caregivers assist aging loved ones with money matters. While this support is incredibly valuable, it can also become complex and overwhelming—especially for those without extensive financial experience.

At Merck Employees FCU, we encourage our members to:

- Add a trusted contact to their account. This provides an extra layer of protection and allows us to reach out if we identify unusual activity or concerns.
- Include a trusted family member or caregiver in financial discussions when appropriate.
- Plan ahead by ensuring proper legal authorizations (such as power of attorney) are in place if needed.

Adding a trusted contact serves as a key safeguard against fraud, financial exploitation, and unexpected life events. Having this information on file allows the credit union to:

- Contact someone the member trusts if we detect suspicious transactions or potential fraud.
- Assist when a member may be unreachable, experiencing cognitive decline, or dealing with a health emergency.
- Address concerns early and help prevent minor issues from escalating into larger financial problems.

It's important to remember that a trusted contact does not have access to the account or authority to make transactions—they are simply a point of contact in urgent situations.

If you are interested in adding a trusted contact to your accounts at Merck Employees FCU, please review the information on our website here and complete the DocuSign form. If you would like to speak with a member of our team, you can contact them via email at memberservices@merckefcu.com or via online banking message center. Additionally, they can be reached by telephone at 732-484-4811 during normal business hours.

Carefull

EMAIL: MEMBERSERVICES@MERCKEFCU.COM
PHONE: 732-484-4811
ONLINE BANKING: OPTION 1
LOAN DEPARTMENT: OPTION 2
IRA SERVICES: OPTION 3
CARD SERVICES: OPTION 4
MEMBER SERVICES OPTION 5

