

Congratulations to Our 2020 Scholarship Winners

Five Students Awarded a Total of \$10,000

For the past 26 years, SLFCU has supported student members with annual essay scholarship competitions. We extend our best wishes to our 2020 scholarship winners, and our thanks to the 27 members who volunteered their time as judges.

Of the 123 applications submitted, five students received awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Student essays addressed the question, "Do you believe people should choose a career based on the potential salary, or because they are passionate about the work? Why?" Following are excerpts from the top three winning essays:



Abigail attends the University of Mary, studying Nursing.

Abigail Kalinowski

FIRST PLACE

A higher income alone does not correspond to greater financial prudence, and people should not enter an occupation solely for the wage. After all, money is simply a means to the pleasures of life rather than an end in itself. Thus, since a career is often a lifelong commitment, it should not only provide the means of living, but bring purpose to life.



Mia will attend Benedictine College to pursue a double major in Theology and Music.

Mia Kroeter

SECOND PLACE

Doing something you are passionate about gives you the particular talent of never growing weary of your work, always striving to take each step with the greatest lengths of love. That is why I believe that a career should be something one is passionate about; it allows you to serve others because no matter what challenge you face, you will muster the courage to carry it through.



Mark attends Loyola Marymount University, studying Filmmaking.

Mark Joseph

THIRD PLACE

People should pursue a balance of passion and salary in their career goals. An individual that pursues a passion finds self-actualization, but she may not acquire funds for her basic welfare. If family members depend on her, she could follow salary exclusively over passion. But, when she combines her skillsets with passions, mankind will benefit most. That route is how my mom started her telemedicine company after working as a well-compensated software engineer and passionate acupuncturist.

Additional 2020 Scholarship Winners (in alphabetical order)

Monique Quihuis

attends Texas Christian University, pursuing a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science.

Matthew Tyrrell

will attend the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to study Mechanical Engineering

Information about our 2021 scholarship competition will appear on slfcu.org and in the April 2021 edition of the Dollars & Sense newsletter. ■

We can help you
pay for college.
slfcu.org/StudentLoans



SLFCU's Jefferson Branch Will Move

We are excited to announce our Jefferson branch will soon move from its current location into a new location across the street, allowing for a larger branch to better serve our members. The new space at 7412 Jefferson Street NE will replace our current branch at 7500 Jefferson Street NE and will include drive-up lanes and a drive-up ATM – perfect for our members on the go.

Prior to the move, the building will need to undergo some renovations. The CU Anytime ATM located in the drive-up is now available for member use, and our current branch will remain open until the new branch renovations are complete. To stay up to date on the latest SLFCU news and celebrations, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. ■

Save a Tree and Help a National Forest

Switch to eStatements and eNotices.

Signing up to receive eStatements and eNotices on your SLFCU accounts eliminates the need for you to receive paper statements and notices. And, for every new eStatement/eNotice registration made now through December 31, 2020, SLFCU will donate \$1 to the National Forest Foundation – enough to plant a tree in the National Forest System. If all SLFCU members currently receiving paper statements changed to eStatements, we could plant nearly 80,000 trees!

What's in it for you

- **More security:** Fewer items with your personal information will be in your mailbox, keeping your information more secure.
- **More file organization:** Eliminate paper in your living spaces and enjoy online access to two years of statement history.
- **More green:** Currently, more than 1 million U.S. acres need reforestation.¹ Through the National Forest Foundation, we'll help restore burned and damaged forest landscapes to provide wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, enhance recreational experiences, and help address global warming.
- **More free ATM transactions:** Get unlimited free ATM transactions at CU Anytime and CO-OP ATMs – nearly 30,000 locations nationwide.



Viewing your eStatements and eNotices

When you enroll in eStatements and eNotices, SLFCU will send you an email each month to let you know your statement is ready

to view or print securely through online banking. The statement itself is NOT emailed to you.

SLFCU will email notices – with personal information masked for your security – to alert you about account activities such as certificate renewals, CreditLine advances, loan add-ons, overdraft transfers, and insufficient funds.

Enrolling is easy

To enroll, log in to online or mobile banking and select the eDocuments widget. In most cases, enrollment is instant. However, you may receive any paper statement or notice that was generated before you enrolled.

Not registered for online banking yet? Visit slfcu.org/OnlineBanking to get started. ■

1. <https://www.nationalforests.org/assets/pdfs/NFF-Corporate-Tree-Planting-Partnerships.pdf>

Fall 2020 Real Estate Report: Albuquerque Area and Tri-Valley, CA

After a dip in residential selling activity over the first half of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the market is rebounding nationally as economies open back up and mortgage interest rates fall to record lows.

Albuquerque: Homes are Moving Fast

COVID-19 restrictions made potential sellers hesitant to put their homes on the market, which greatly decreased inventory in the area, says HomeAdvantage® agent Valerie Almanzar of Your Casa Team. “That, combined with incredibly low interest rates, is contributing to a very fast-moving market,” she notes, adding, “It will take time for the market to go back to ‘normal’ for the area. If conditions stay the same, we will continue to see a rise in home prices into 2021.”

Valerie adds, “We are seeing buyers – including many first-timers – getting more home for their money because the low interest rates give them more buying power. On a month-by-month basis, the average number of days a home is on the market continues to decline, and it is really clear to sellers if a home is overpriced. We are seeing homes get multiple offers, and buyers are offering upfront to pay the difference if the home does not appraise at the selling price.”

Her top advice is to work with an experienced agent and/or team. “There are a lot of people getting into real estate right now who do not necessarily know how to negotiate and protect their clients,” she cautions.

California's Tri-Valley: On the Rebound

In the Tri-Valley area, the market has made a dramatic

recovery after steep year-over-year declines in March and April. Buyer demand soared in May and June, almost surpassing 2019 peak levels.

Claudia Colwell, a HomeAdvantage agent serving the Tri-Valley community at J. Rockcliff Realtors, expects prices to go up in 2021. She's also seeing more first-time buyers, perhaps due to people working remotely and planning to do so into the future. “There is a huge opportunity for young buyers to move out of the more expensive parts of the Bay Area and purchase instead of rent,” she notes. “The number of properties sold has decreased due to low inventories, and median prices have risen by about 8% since 2019,” she adds. Her top advice is to be patient and stay informed, as the market can be challenging and the process can feel overwhelming.

Thinking of Moving?

Get started by visiting slfcu.org/HomeLoans, and check our rates at slfcu.org/Rates. Find a trusted agent and earn cash back through the HomeAdvantage® program by visiting slfcu.org/HomeAdvantage.* ■

* Cash Rewards are awarded through the HomeAdvantage program to buyers and sellers who select and use a real estate agent in the HomeAdvantage network. Home buyers or sellers are not eligible for Cash Rewards if they use an agent outside this network. Cash Rewards amounts are dependent on the commissions paid to the HomeAdvantage network agent. Obtaining a mortgage or use of any specific lending institution is not a requirement to earn Cash Rewards. If you are obtaining a mortgage, your lender may have specific rules on how Cash Rewards can be paid out. Cash Rewards are available in most states; however, are void where prohibited by law or by the lender. Please consult with your lender for details that may affect you.

Accident Leads Teen to a Powerful Learning Opportunity



Jesus recently earned 100% on a history quiz and is sporting his COVID-19 inspired mask and hair!

As SLFCU continues to raise funds for the New Mexico Credit Unions Connected Academy (NMCUCA¹), we'll periodically feature patients who have, or would have, benefited from having a teacher available at UNM Children's Hospital (UNMCH).

Meet Jesus, an energetic 15-year-old who is learning to cook and loves playing video games, football, and basketball. On October 23, 2019, after he played basketball at his neighborhood park and was walking home, Jesus was struck by a car. An ambulance transported him to UNMCH, where he underwent surgery to relieve trauma-induced pressure building around his brain.

While Jesus was recuperating in the hospital, he met Monica, the full-time teacher for the Mimbres School located at UNMCH. She quizzed him on multiplication tables and encouraged him to stay in school. Reflecting on her visits, Jesus said, "I wasn't interested in attending the school at the hospital, thought I wouldn't like it, and that it would be horrible."

But Jesus' grandpa insisted, so he registered for the Mimbres School. "Within a day or two of working with Monica, I started to feel really comfortable with her," Jesus says, "I could share what lessons I knew and didn't know. Working one-on-one with her helped me focus, and I can tell I've learned a lot in the seven months I've been enrolled in the hospital's school program. Monica discovered what can motivate me to do schoolwork, and she helped me set a plan for my future - now I want to learn!"

"If not for this program, I honestly don't know where I'd be right now," said Jesus. With his full English and History credits for 2019 now completed through Mimbres, he is completing other coursework and will

September is Virtual Hope Hearts Month!



Please consider donating to help keep critically ill children on track toward graduation. SLFCU is raising \$200,000 on behalf of NMCUCA to build an endowment fund large enough to provide a long-term teaching position at UNMCH.

Double your good deed in September. Purchase a Hope Heart and SLFCU will match your donation!*

Monetary donations of any amount are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. Visit any open NM branch, call us at 505.293.0500, or send a secure message in online or mobile banking to donate.

To send a secure message:

1. Log in to online or mobile banking. If you've not yet registered, visit slfcu.org/OnlineBanking.
2. Go to the Message Center:
 - a. In online banking, click on More at the bottom left of your home screen, select Message Center.
 - a. In mobile banking, click on Message Center in the mobile menu. If you don't see the Message Center, click on More at the bottom right of your home screen.
2. Choose Compose to initiate a new message.
3. Subject: select Donate to NMCUCA from the drop-down menu.
4. Account: choose the account you'd like your donation to be drawn from.
5. In the Message template, type in the amount you'd like to donate.
6. Click Send.

*SLFCU will match all donations made to NMCUCA within the month of September, 2020, up to \$5,000.

be ready to re-enter public school this fall. Jesus gives credit to Monica and Mimbres School Superintendent/Principal Jeremy Abshire (who, according to Jesus, is really cool), saying, "There are other kids who need this program and Monica's help; it would be great if they could benefit as I have." ■

1. NM Credit Unions Connected Academy (NMCUCA), a non-profit organization, provides funding for an accredited full-time teacher at the Mimbres School - a state-accredited, year-round elementary and high school in a hospital setting. SLFCU has partnered with six other New Mexico credit unions to build an endowment large enough to sustain the school for the next decade and beyond.

Share the benefits of SLFCU membership with those you love most.

As a member, your family and household members are eligible to join.

Visit slfcu.org/WhoCanJoin.



Outgrowing your car?

Trust in SLFCU for smart, convenient auto loans with low rates, flexible terms, and no payments for the first 90 days.

Life happens.



Let SLFCU join the ride. Apply now at slfcu.org/AutoLoans.

SLFCU Gives Back to Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors

SLFCU has committed to giving a total of \$45,000 in 2020 to ten organizations in New Mexico and Livermore, California who are helping take care of those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of those non-profit organizations is The Barrett Foundation, which provides shelter and safe housing for women and children experiencing homelessness or domestic violence.

The Barrett Foundation is working hard to keep the families they serve as safe as possible during this pandemic. According to Interim Executive Director Melissa Kaminsky, their clients are facing many obstacles during the pandemic. "Because we offer a community living environment, we have had to enforce limited contact for the women and children receiving our services," says Melissa. "The staff and those living at the Barrett House have embraced their "new normal"

of living together 24/7, and are striving to maintain a healthy living space."

Melissa adds, "Everyone in the community is working together to clean, cook, and keep a positive and peaceful environment. This has made everyone feel really close. It's times like this that truly make our communities strong. We are so grateful for the grant from SLFCU; it will really help."

SLFCU members can also help this worthy organization. The need is great for cleaning supplies, including paper towels and Clorox wipes, and most of all, disposable face masks to help keep everyone safe while in close distances, says Melissa. They can also accept kitchenware, toilet paper, disposable paper goods, and fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables. To find out more about The Barrett Foundation and how you can help, visit barrettfoundation.org or call 505.246.9244. ■



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Dollars & Sense

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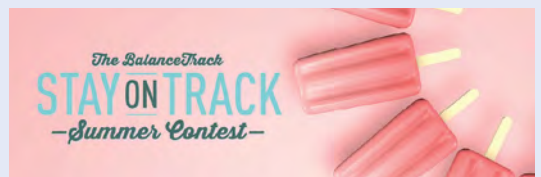
SLFCU's Jefferson Branch is Moving!

Save a Tree and Help a National Forest

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On the Calendar

To view upcoming webinars and online events, visit slfcu.org/Calendar.



BalanceTrack Summer Contest

Strengthen your financial skills this summer and earn a chance to win \$500 in the 3rd Annual BALANCE Financial Fitness "Stay On Track" summer contest! Members can also be entered to win an additional \$100 by completing the BALANCE Module of The Month. The contest runs from July 1 through September 30, 2020. Visit slfcu.org/BalanceContest to learn more. ■