

# NUFCU NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Big CRED Rewards is Now Powered by UChoose Rewards

Six years ago, we launched our Big CRED Rewards Visa program which allowed members to earn points for their purchases and provided many options for redemption. However, the vendor for the product didn't allow us to provide special offers and the redemption site required a separate login. For those reasons, we searched for a better partner.

We are excited to announce to you that as of March 12, our Big CRED Rewards is now powered by



### Reward Yourself with a New Adventure.

UChoose Rewards which provides our cardholders with even more options and flexibility. Big CRED Rewards cardholders still have the option to use their points for travel, merchandise, gift cards, and cash back, as they always have. But with this new partnership Big CRED Rewards members can also use their points to pay for gas at Amoco or BP stations, when using Paypal

and to pay for purchases on Amazon with their points. And, from time to time, we will offer cardholders special opportunities to earn more rewards! The rewards program is now integrated into our online and mobile banking products, making it more convenient to access and use and therefore a more enjoyable experience. There is no need for another username and password, rewards members simply log into online banking or the mobile app and click on the "MyCards" menu. We believe this new partnership provides increased value for our Big CRED Rewards cardholders.

If you'd like to know more about our Big CRED Rewards program visit [nufcu-visa-credit-card](http://nufcu-visa-credit-card). If you already have a Classic Card but want to upgrade, simply give us a call at 402-472-8782 or stop by one of our branches. Although you will receive a new card number, we can easily print a new card for you right at the branch. Don't miss out on the opportunity to earn points – upgrade to Big CRED Rewards today!

### Additional Convenient Card Features Now Available Thru Digital Banking

If you have a Debit or Credit Card from NUFCU be sure to check out the My Cards section of Online Banking and the Mobile App. Turn your card off and on for security, upload your card to your Mobile Wallet, set up alerts, provide us with your travel plans and view a detailed summary of your card spending.

## LUNCH 'N LEARN

Below is the schedule for our spring Lunch & Learn series. The "Welcome to Medicare" seminar will take place at the Downtown Lincoln location starting at 12:00 noon in person and will also be available on Zoom. Lunch will be provided for those attending in person. The "Will You Be Ready" and "Homebuying" seminars will be online only. Kindly RSVP by calling 402- 472-2087 or online at [nufcu.org/seminars](http://nufcu.org/seminars). The link for the online presentations will be emailed before the seminar.

### Welcome to Medicare -

Wednesday, **April 10**

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

In person/Zoom

### Jonathan Burlison, CCL

SHIP/SMP Administrator

*Zoom invite will be emailed to all who register*

### Will You Be Ready -

Thursday, **May 2**

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Only

### Attorney Jenny Tricker

*Zoom invite will be emailed to all who register*

### Homebuying 101 -

Wednesday, **May 22**

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Webinar only

### Presented by Servion

*Webinar link will be emailed to all who register*

# The Year in Review and the Road Ahead

Inflation, interest rates, bank failures, and financial crime were the biggest headlines of 2023 for our industry. Embedded inflation caused the Feds to raise interest rates quickly to cool the economy. Interest rates shot up to levels we haven't seen in 40-plus years, and several large banks with poor liquidity management failed. Fortunately, we take a conservative approach in managing risk at your credit union, and we experienced a very successful year despite the negative factors.

Two highlights of the year included record loan production and a tremendously successful card conversion. While lending was a challenge for many financial institutions, our top-notch staff originated more than \$26 million in loans to members at interest rates and terms fair and affordable for everyone. This is especially impressive given these were primarily for automobiles versus higher-dollar mortgages. In June we vastly improved our member experience by moving to a new best-in-class card processing platform. The successful conversion began putting contactless cards in our members' hands, integrated a robust set of card controls into our mobile banking app, and provided our excellent staff with improved tools to serve you and better protect you from fraudsters. In 2023 staff received more positive online reviews than in any previous year, and our credit union's net promoter score of 79 places us among the very best in our industry or in any industry.

The road ahead is very bright. We have amazing staff, core values-focused leadership, and the best field of membership possible serving the students, faculty, staff, and volunteers of the University of Nebraska. And remember family members are eligible to join the credit union, too. Won't you encourage them to join? We are a financial cooperative founded on solid values and principles, and the more you and your family participate in the cooperative the more successful we all are. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff we thank you for choosing us and trusting us to always act in your best interests.

If you'd like to talk with me, please call me at 402-472-6915 or email me at [kkauffeld@nufcu.org](mailto:kkauffeld@nufcu.org). I welcome the conversation.

## UNLOCKING FINANCIAL POTENTIAL:

### The Advantages of Using a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) for Financing

A Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) allows you to leverage a portion of the equity in your home as a convenient financing source. The amount of equity you have in your home is determined by subtracting the amount of your current mortgage balance from the appraised value of your home. The difference is your "equity".

A HELOC is a revolving line of credit secured by the equity in your home. Unlike a traditional Home Equity Loan, a HELOC offers more flexibility and accessibility. Access any amount from \$500 up to the full amount of your credit line by using a check or asking us to transfer funds to your checking account.

Pay as little as the minimum payment or the full amount each month and pay interest on only the outstanding balance. And you can access it over and over again.

HELOCs often come with lower interest rates compared to other forms of financing such as personal loans or credit cards, which make it an attractive option for cost-effective borrowing. A HELOC at NUFUCU offers a variable interest rate, based on the Federal Reserve's prime rate. If the Feds lower interest rates, your rate will go down.

### Common Uses for HELOC Financing

#### Home Improvements

Many of our members use HELOCs to fund home improvement projects, increasing the value of their property. Adding a deck or remodeling a kitchen not only makes your home more enjoyable but will bring value to your home in the long run. During the home improvement process, you are paying interest and making payments only on the amount of funds you need to access each month.

#### Debt Consolidation

A HELOC can be used to consolidate high-interest debt, such as credit cards or personal loans, into a single, more manageable payment. Consolidating debt can save money on interest payments and help you get debts paid off faster.

#### Education

A HELOC can be an affordable and convenient way to pay for education expenses like tuition, books and housing for you or a family member when subsidized lending sources are exhausted. Again, you make payments on only the portion of the credit that you are accessing each month.

## Emergency Fund

A HELOC can provide peace of mind as a financial safety net for unexpected emergencies. Having funds at the ready can act as a financial cushion without the pressure of a fixed monthly payment.

While a HELOC can be a convenient financing option, borrowers need to recognize the importance of responsible use of a HELOC, considering potential risks such as fluctuating interest rates and the risk of foreclosure.

When considering a HELOC, be sure to discuss the key advantages and risks of using a HELOC for financing with a trusted loan officer. For many people a HELOC is a convenient financial tool and a strategic option for achieving their goals.

## Free Shred Day 2024



**Saturday, May 11**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Lincoln East Branch**  
301 N 52nd Street

**Friday, May 17**

**All Day – Kearney Branch**  
208 W 29th Street, Ste. C

**Bring any documents that contain personal or private information. Shredding Solutions will be onsite with their mobile truck in Lincoln and have shred containers available in Kearney.**

## Family and Friends are Welcome at your Credit Union



We introduced our new checking account in 2023 – MakeCents. This unique account has already given back over \$48,000 to our members. MakeCents ensures that everyone, regardless of their account balance, benefits from this unique offering. Our aim with the enhanced Makecents checking account is to expand our membership base by showcasing our great products and dedicated staff. We want more people to join our cooperative.

At NUFCU, we believe in the power of community and sharing the benefits of membership with those you care about. If you have friends, relatives, or co-workers who could benefit from our services, now is the perfect time to invite them to become a member. Simply share what you love about NUFCU and encourage them to join.

Every business will tell you how great they are but what do our members have to say about us?

- “The University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union is one of the most customer service-oriented businesses in Kearney. It is so nice to have a financial institution that really cares for their members!”
- “Great rates and friendly staff... 10 out of 10 would recommend them!”
- “I have four bank accounts and yours is the easiest to use. And BEST OF ALL when I need to talk with someone on the phone, a live person answers and most of the time can help me. If not, I get the right person quickly. Wonderful.”

Don't forget to pick up our Tell-A-Friend coupon at the branch or visit our website to print one at [www.nufcu.org/2525referral](http://www.nufcu.org/2525referral). Fill in your details and the name of the person you are referring, and when they open a checking account and present the coupon, we will not only deposit 25 in their new account but also reward you with \$25 in your account.

Spread the word and reap the rewards of being part of the NUFCU family!

[www.nufcu.org](http://www.nufcu.org) | 402.472.2087



Let the equity in your home  
**unlock the door**  
to the extra money you need

visit [www.nufcu.org/heloc](http://www.nufcu.org/heloc)



# University of Nebraska

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1720 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

## LINCOLN

1720 P Street  
301 N 52nd Street

### Lobby Hours:

8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday

### Drive up:

8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday

9:00-12:00 noon Saturday (East Only)

## KEARNEY

208 W. 29th Street, Ste. C

### Lobby Hours:

9:00-5:00 Monday - Friday

### Drive up:

8:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday

8:00-5:30 Friday

## EVENTS & SEMINARS

**LUNCH & LEARN** – Register at [nufcu.org/seminars](http://nufcu.org/seminars)

**WELCOME TO MEDICARE** – in person/Zoom

Jonathan Burlison, CCL, *SHIP/SMP Administrator*

Wednesday, **April 10** | Noon – 1:00 p.m.

*Zoom invite will be emailed to all who register*

**WILL YOU BE READY** – Zoom Only

Attorney Jenny Tricker

Thursday, **May 2** | Noon – 1:00 p.m.

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**ANNUAL MEETING** - Tuesday, **April 30** | 6:00 pm

**FREE SHRED DAY**

Saturday, **May 11** | 9 – 11 a.m. – *Lincoln East Branch*

Friday, **May 17** | All Day – *Kearney Branch*

## CLOSED HOLIDAYS

### MAY

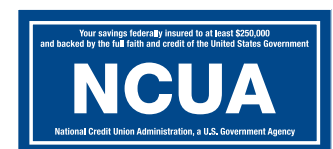
**27** Memorial Day

### JUNE

**19** Juneteenth

### JULY

**4** Independence Day



find us online at [www.nufcu.org](http://www.nufcu.org) or follow us on

