

# NUFCU NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Kearney Branch Recognized as Best Credit Union in Kearney



The Kearney Branch has been named **Best Credit Union in Kearney** in the *Kearney Hub's 2026 Best of Kearney* contest.

The announcement was made May 16, recognizing the branch's continued commitment to member service and community engagement.

Since opening as a full-service branch in September 2019, the Kearney team has focused on delivering personalized financial solutions while building strong relationships throughout the community. NUFCU expanded into Kearney to better serve both the university community and the greater Kearney area, and the branch's success reflects the positive response from members and residents alike.

The Kearney Branch team includes Branch/ Training Manager Julie Thomsen, Loan Officers Kyle Harms and Annie Wiedel, and frontline staff members Erica Peeples and Abbi Ott. Their dedication to member service

and commitment to NUFCU's mission have helped establish the branch as a trusted financial partner in the community.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our Kearney staff and the relationships they have built with members," said Vice President of Member Experience Dena Noe. "The warm reception from the Kearney community reinforces that expanding into the market was the right decision and highlights how a member-focused philosophy can create a strong and successful branch."

NUFCU sincerely thanks the Kearney community for the support the branch has received over the past several years. From the time the branch opened its doors, local members, businesses, and community organizations welcomed the credit union and embraced its mission of people helping people. Being voted Best Credit Union is not only an honor for the staff, but also a reflection of the trust and confidence the community has placed in NUFCU.

"We are incredibly thankful to everyone who voted for us and to all of our members



**Kearney Team :** The team celebrated the win with flowers and balloons. (L-R) Kyle Harms, Annie Wiedel, Julie Thomsen and Abbi Ott. Not pictured but there in spirit Erica Peeples.

who continue to choose NUFCU for their financial needs," Thomsen added. "We are proud to be part of the Kearney community and look forward to continuing to serve and grow alongside it for many years to come."



## Celebrate International Credit Union Day with Us!

Join us on **Thursday, October 15, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** at our Lincoln Downtown Branch and **9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** at our Kearney Branch.

Stop by for a **FREE coffee and a tasty treat** as we celebrate the credit union difference together. We're excited to partner with The Loving Cup Coffee in Lincoln to help make this a delicious start to your day. *We look forward to celebrating with you!*

### Voted "Best of"

Being recognized as the Kearney Hub Reader's Choice for Best Credit Union in Kearney is monumental, and a testament to the outstanding team of Julie, Erica, Abbi, Annie and Kyle. This dynamic team led by Julie Thomsen is kind, caring, thoughtful, grateful, and perfectly represents the core values and ideals of our credit union.

Our credit union didn't even have a presence in Kearney until 2017, and we didn't offer full-service branch banking until 2019. In a city of 35,000+ rarely can a single credit union or bank branch stand out. However, this team has, and if you have interacted with them, you can feel how much they care about their members and the local community. Building reputation and trust with customers and members takes time, and this commendation accomplished in short order, and given by the people who live in and around Kearney, is truly exceptional. Kudos Team Kearney!

This Best of Credit Unions Award in Kearney was based on votes from the local community. Another award worth highlighting is recognition as a Best in State Credit Union by Forbes. Since the inception of the award in 2018, our credit union has twice been selected as being in the top 3% of all banks and credit unions in the nation.

Administered by Statista and presented by Forbes, the award is based on survey results from more than 25,500 U.S. citizens regarding their current and previous banking experiences. As a two-time recipient of the award, we were the smallest financial institution in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition.

These awards are based on staff and directors who care about their members, on clear and easy to understand policies, on transparent disclosures, and on an engaged team of professionals with a mindset to do what is right and in the best interest of the membership.

Though we are smaller in asset size than most banks, our members trust us with their personal financial matters. These awards and recognition demonstrate we can and will compete with any bank, fintech, or other financial institution in the nation. Building trust with our members is our business model and central to all we do. If you'd like to discuss this or any financial matter, please call or email me at the credit union. I welcome the conversation.

## Meet Annie Wiedel: A Friendly Face in Kearney



(L-R) Aiden, Baylen, Chad, Annie - on her lap Layden and Gemma - Myla and Elliot. Dogs - Roadie, Murphy, Bailey, and Maggie (in Myla's arms)

When members walk into our Kearney branch, they're often greeted by a warm smile—and a little southern charm—from Senior Lending Officer, Annie Wiedel. This September, Annie will celebrate five years with the credit union, and we're proud to recognize the care, kindness and dedication she brings to our members every day.

Originally from the Florida panhandle, Annie met her husband, Chad, in Florida after he returned from deployment. Chad, a Minden native, eventually convinced Annie to trade sandy beaches for Nebraska skies, and the family made the move in July 2013. While she now proudly calls Nebraska home, Annie's sweet southern accent is still very much intact.

Family is at the center of Annie's life. She and Chad have three children and a growing crew of grandchildren—currently six, evenly split between boys and girls, ranging from 8 years old to just 1 month old, with another grandson arriving later this year. Their home is also full of four-legged family members: Bailey, Roadie, Murphy and Maggie.

Outside of work, Annie enjoys spending time with family,

caring for her dogs and tackling craft projects. Around the office, when she isn't helping members, you'll find her sharing stories about her grandkids or sharing a laugh and maybe even a prank with her co-workers.

What Annie loves most about her role at NUFCU is helping members through important moments in their lives.

"What I love most about working here is the genuine care we have for our members and each other. It truly feels like a team that's focused on doing what's best for the people we serve. I especially enjoy helping members reach their goals—whether that's buying a vehicle, improving their home or simply finding financial peace of mind. Seeing members succeed and knowing I helped in some small way is the best part of my job."

Whether she's helping a member finance a new vehicle, plan for home improvements or simply feel more confident financially, Annie's personal approach and genuine compassion make a lasting difference. We're grateful to have her as part of the NUFCU family—and we know our members are, too.



# Leveling Up to Bring You More

We are updating the credit union's computer systems to make sure we can serve you better today and into the future. This update will mean that the credit union will be closed for staff training/system update on **Saturday, October 3, 2026**. In addition, our digital banking products will be offline from 5:30 p.m. Friday, October 2 to midday on Monday, October 5. While this will cause some interruption in our service, we know that to continue to provide you with the service you expect we need to make sure our technology is growing with us.

We will need to continue to communicate steps in this update process over the next six months as we approach October 5. To make sure we keep you informed please make sure your contact information on file with us is up to date. Specifically we would like you to make sure your email address and phone number are correct.

The best way to provide us with updated information is to log into digital banking either on your desktop computer or on your phone. Here are the steps to follow:

### PHONE APP:

Click on "More"

Click "Contact Information Change Form"

Complete the information and submit

### ONLINE BANKING

Click on "Forms"

Click on "Contact Information Change Form"

Complete the information and submit

## Lincoln Credit Unions Scholarship Contest



Dena Noe, VP Member Experience, presents CU Scholarship winner Nitya Haridas with a \$2,500 check.

Every year a group of Lincoln credit unions get together and present the Lincoln Credit Unions Scholarship Contest. This year the contest was supported by your credit union as well as Liberty First Credit Union, LincOne Federal Credit Union, LPS Employees Federal Credit Union and MembersOwn Credit Union. The first-place prize of a \$2,500 scholarship was awarded Nitya Haridas, who is a four-year member of NUFCU.

This year the applicants were asked to write an essay on the topic: What products and

services can credit unions offer to alleviate burdens when budgets are tight? The essay can have a maximum of 500 words. All essays are judged by credit union employees, and it is a blind review.

Nitya's essay was a delight to read as she references her dad's humor at the dinner table as they discuss banking. Her dad loves to quote a Seinfeld episode where Newman declares, "An innocent person who

wanted nothing more out of life than to love, to be loved and to be a banker." She continues in her essay to provide insight and suggestions on how credit unions can support individuals who need to stretch each paycheck.

We look forward to Nitya being a member of the credit union for a long time as she starts her first semester at the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management at UNL in the fall. We wish you all the best Nitya.

## Home Equity Promotion Leads to Fun Donation



Kids gather around the hoop at the American Indian Center



Kids gather around the hoop at the Belmont Community Center

As part of our Home Equity promotion, "**Nothing But Net**," we brought the excitement of the basketball season to the branch as a way to engage members and raise awareness about special loan opportunities. To help draw attention to the promotion, basketball hoops were set up in the lobbies of the Lincoln branches, creating a fun atmosphere for both members and staff.

When the promotion reached the end of its season, the credit union looked for an opportunity to assist the community and make sure the hoops continued making an impact. A staff member suggested TeamMates Mentoring, and after reaching out to TeamMates leadership, the credit union was connected with local organizations that could put the hoops into play during the summer months.

The basketball hoops have now found new homes at the Belmont Community Center and the American Indian Center, where they will continue to encourage activity and fun for the youth throughout the summer. We are grateful for the partnership of these organizations and look forward to seeing the hoops continue to make a positive difference in our communities.

Steal a

# DEAL

## On Your Next Ride

# 1/2% OFF\* Auto Loans



\*1/2% off our current published rates. All loans are subject to approval. Financing up to 100% of retail value of the auto is available. Includes new or used car purchases or auto loans refinanced from another institution. Auto loans currently financed through NUFCU are not eligible for this promotion. Offer good through August 14, 2026.

# 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 - Friday

## EVENTS

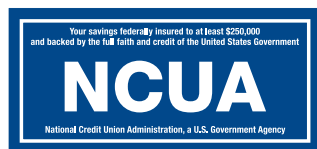
### INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

#### LINCOLN

Thursday, **October 15** | 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

#### KEARNEY

Thursday, **October 15** | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



## CLOSED HOLIDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

**7** Labor Day

### OCTOBER

**3** System Update Closure  
Saturday

**12** Columbus/Indigenous  
Peoples' Day

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

