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**LAFCU awards $5,000 in scholarships**

**to Mason, Owosso high school seniors**

*Recipients select charity food programs for $500 donations*

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU has awarded the 2016 “Write to Educate” $2,500 college scholarships to two high school seniors bound for Lansing Community College (LCC) and Baker College of Owosso this fall.

Mason High School senior Jenelle McCoy, daughter of Kevin and Lynn McCoy, of Mason, will pursue an Associate in Arts at LCC with the intention to transfer to a four-year college to complete a bachelor’s degree, majoring in sports management.

Owosso High School senior Kaycee Ogle, daughter of Jeffery and Kimberly Ogle, of Owosso, will pursue a bachelor’s degree in pre-occupational therapy at Baker College to become an occupational therapist.

As a part of their scholarship awards, McCoy and Ogle each selected a charity to receive a $500 donation from LAFCU. McCoy chose the Greater Lansing Food Bank; Ogle supported the food and nutrition programs at the Salvation Army Owosso.

The scholarship recipients were selected based on a one-page essay about an improvement the applicant could implement at their high school before they graduate that would also benefit the community.

“Reading applications for this scholarship is extremely inspiring,” said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU senior vice president of marketing. “Jenelle and Kaycee identified ways they could positively impact their communities, which is in line with LAFCU’s longstanding ‘people helping people’ mission. They proved that the power of one can be mighty.”

While in high school, McCoy had observed the effects of cancer on six of her classmates and helped support them emotionally. This experience inspired her to suggest a memorial for the three students who lost their battles with this deadly disease, but who never gave up.

“The most positive effect I can have on my alma mater is to shine the light on my peers who left this world too soon,” McCoy said. “Remembering them for their bravery and optimism is the legacy that should live on.”

Ogle’s idea turned into a community-supported event. As a yearbook team member, she learned that some students couldn’t afford senior photos. With school support and a professional photographer willing to provide a “free photo shoot,” word got out in the community. Hair stylists, barbers and makeup artists volunteered to help, a DJ provided tunes, and a baker donated snacks.

“This is a time in our lives that is important because we’re closing one chapter and embarking on a new one,” she said. “All my classmates deserved to document this time and to feel good about themselves.”

The school is planning to make the photo shoot an annual event, and Ogle will be there to assist.

“The photo shoot helped my school and classmates, and it was good for the families in our community who don’t want to let their kids down,” she said. “I am still in awe that one small idea blew up into something so beautiful.”

Applicants for the LAFCU Write to Educate scholarship must be a senior in a high school within the LAFCU service territory, which includes the counties of Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Livingston, Montcalm and Shiawassee. They must also be planning to attend LCC or Baker College’s Owosso campus.

**About LAFCU**

Chartered in 1936, LAFCU is proud to be mid-Michigan’s credit union, serving the counties of Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Livingston, Montcalm and Shiawassee. A recipient of the Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award, LAFCU takes pride in bringing value to the financial lives of its members, neighbors, families and community. Offering a comprehensive range of personal and business financial products, LAFCU provides services that include checking and savings accounts, auto and mortgage lending, business accounts and business lending. LAFCU serves nearly 60,000 members, holds more than $600 million in assets, and maintains nine locations throughout Greater Lansing and Shiawassee County. Anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in its designated counties is eligible to join. Members enjoy benefits, such as lower interest rates on loans, higher yields on savings, insurance discounts, preferred seating for LAFCU-sponsored events, and access to 28,000 surcharge-free ATMs through the CO-OP ATM network. LAFCU supports and enriches mid-Michigan by donating funds and employee volunteer hours to many organizations and causes. To learn more about LAFCU, please call 517.622.6600 or find us online:

* Website: [www.LAFCU.com](http://www.LAFCU.com)
* Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LAFCU](http://www.facebook.com/LAFCU)
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**Photo captions:**

**LAFCU-2016-Mason** – LAFCU Write to Educate scholarship recipient Jenelle McCoy, second from left, receives a ceremonial check at Mason High School with, from left, LAFCU’s Jordan McNeilly; Jenelle’s mother, Lynn McCoy; and LAFCU’s Alyssa Sliger.

**LAFCU-2016-FoodBank** – On hand for the presentation of the 2016 LAFCU Write to Educate scholarship to recent Mason High School graduate Jenelle McCoy, center, are, from left, Lindsay Walters and Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, with LAFCU; Joe Wald, with the Greater Lansing Food Bank; and Dan McKean, with the LCC Foundation.

**LAFCU-2016-SalArmy** – Recent Owosso High School graduateKaycee Ogle, third from left, receives a ceremonial check for the LAFCU Write to Educate scholarship at the Salvation Army Owosso. At the presentation are, from left, Jamie Antcliff and Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU; Ogle’s friend, Austin Ager; Lt. Jonathan Tamayo, Salvation Army Owosso; and Morgan Brown, LAFCU.