

pencil points

News worth noting from your credit union.



From The President

Dear Members,

Let's talk about your credit union. I realize that a lot of people who are members of credit unions – even some of our wonderful, smart, amazing members – don't really know how credit unions work or how we are different from banks.

Some of you have been members for years, but don't realize the range of services we offer. So let's review.

Credit unions like AECU are non-profit, cooperative financial institutions. We are member-owned. By making the \$25 minimum deposit in your share account, each of you secured your share in the credit union. Credit unions take deposits made by our member-owners and lend them out to other member-owners. Because we are set up this way, we are highly regulated. Our state and federal examiners pay close attention to lending practices and policies to make sure that there is not excessive risk in our lending portfolio like we saw in many banks that made sub-prime loans.

Any investments we make are also highly regulated. We do not invest in the stock market, so we are able to run independently of any ups and downs it might have. Most investments are made in CDs or interest-bearing accounts at our corporate credit union. These investments are no risk or low risk.

Like many banks, credit unions are run by a board of directors. However, board members at AECU are not paid for their efforts. They are members of the credit union who have chosen to volunteer their time in order to better the credit union. Most of our volunteers choose to serve for the love of the credit union or as a way to give back to AECU for help they have received from us in the past. Having a volunteer board helps to ensure that the focus of the credit union remains on member service instead of profit. As a member-owner, you have the right to vote for your board of directors at our annual meeting.

YOUR SHARES ARE INSURED! You may have heard that credit unions are not federally insured. This is not true. Academic Employees Credit Union is federally insured through the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). The NCUA is the credit union counterpart to the FDIC. It works similarly and has the same insurance limits, currently \$250,000. Like the FDIC, the NCUA is fully backed by the United States Government, however, it is funded by credit unions. As a state rule, any credit union operating in Missouri must be federally insured.

Right now, you may be hearing that financial institutions have tightened their belts and aren't lending as much money. Not true! Because we are highly regulated and have always lent money conservatively, we have had no need to make changes to our lending policies. We have money to lend to our members. In fact, we want to lend our members money – to be there for them, offer them the lowest rates possible and extend impeccable member service.

Your credit union offers a variety of lending and account services so that we really can be full service. We want to offer you every financial service you want and need, such as specialty savings accounts, free checking accounts, direct deposit and automatic withdrawal services, debit and ATM cards, online access to your accounts, e-mail statements, certificates of deposit, payroll deduction for Columbia Public School employees and fixed-rate MasterCard® products. We also offer loans for cars, boats, motorcycles, ATVs and computers, plus personal loan options for emergencies, vacations, home improvements and even debt consolidation! Our rates are always low. Our terms are flexible, and we strive to offer you convenient solutions to your financial needs. It is our policy to treat every borrower the same. Our loan products are open to all of our members, not just the ones with perfect credit. We want to serve all of our members.

Your credit union is here for you. Take advantage of what we offer! If you have any questions on our products and services, please call and talk to one of our friendly member service representatives or our loan officer. I hope you have learned about your credit union. Don't be afraid to learn more!

Sincerely,

Sky Poindexter
President

You're Invited!

Join Us At The Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, May 8
5:30 p.m.

Come celebrate your credit union membership at Academic Employee Credit Union's annual membership meeting, starting at 5:30 on May 8, at Smithton Middle School. You'll enjoy socializing with fellow members and staff, plus dinner and the election of officers. Members will even be eligible to win great door prizes!*

This meeting is our opportunity to look back at the accomplishments of 2008, and plan ahead for a successful 2009. We look forward to seeing you and your guests there!

Please complete the reservation form below and return it to the credit union office with your payment preference by Monday, May 4.

The cost is just \$3 per person, and advance reservations are required.

*Door prize tickets will be given to the primary account owners only. Joint owners or other guests in attendance are welcome, but are not eligible for prize drawings.



Annual Meeting Reservation

(Please print)

I will attend the Academic Employees Credit Union 73rd Annual Meeting.

- Enclosed is my check or share draft for \$ _____ for _____ reservation(s).
- Please deduct \$ _____ for _____ reservation(s) from my share (savings) account.
- Please deduct \$ _____ for _____ reservation(s) from my share draft (checking) account.

X

Signature

Your Name

Your Member Number

List Joint Owner(s) or other Guest(s) you have in your reservation total above:

Please mail or deliver to arrive at the credit union by Monday, May 4:
Academic Employees Credit Union
Attn: Annual Meeting
2804 W. Ash
Columbia, MO 65203

Stop Dreaming And Start Driving!

AECU Has Auto Loan Options For You!

Stop dreaming about that new car. Stop wishing for a lower payment. Instead, come to AECU and let us help you get both!

Don't let financial downturns keep you from picking out the vehicle of your dreams. In this economic climate, automakers are working hard for your money by offering great incentives. For instance, GM and Chrysler currently offer employee pricing and cash back options on new vehicles! Pair those offers with the great financing available at your credit union, and you'll be riding in high style with low payments!

Even if a new car isn't in your future, you can refinance your vehicle with AECU. Your used car still qualifies for low rates and flexible terms, which translate to smaller monthly payments. Use the money you'll save to purchase a top-quality stereo system, remote start, a new paint job or even new wheels – your current car could become your dream car!

Whether you're buying or refinancing, AECU can help you get the auto – and the Auto Loan – of your dreams. For full details about AECU's Auto Loan options, call the credit union today! For more information on automaker incentives and how you qualify, go to www.lovemycreditunion.org.



Don't Sacrifice Your Summer Getaway!

Tough times don't necessarily mean you have to give up your summer vacation. Come to AECU, and let us help you finance a great getaway!

Vacation Savings

By planning ahead and saving gradually, you can build up the funds you need to take the trip you want! Let AECU help with a Specialty Savings Account. We can automatically transfer funds from your existing credit union accounts, or take deposits in our office. You'll even earn interest on the funds you save. Open your account now, and you'll be enjoying your guilt-free vacation later!

Vacation Loans

If you haven't had the time to save but need a break, talk to AECU about a low-rate Vacation Loan. 3898-00 These unsecured loans give you the chance to live it up, without knocking your budget down. Your getaway is within reach, and you'll be thrilled with our flexible terms and affordable payments.

Talk to a loan officer today, and you could be well on your way to a summer getaway!



Coming Soon!

AECU Offers You Home Equity Options!

Homeowners rejoice! You will soon be able to tap into the available equity in your home to loosen your budget, make home improvements, pay for your education or finance any other need. Academic Employees Credit Union is launching a new Home Equity Line of Credit option for our valued members with the low rates and great service you've come to expect from your credit union! Our HELOCs will be available this summer, so keep your eye on this space for more details.

Privacy Policy

Under current law, we are required to give you this privacy notice. It describes our policy and practices regarding the personal information we collect and disclose, including the parties who receive personal and sometimes non-public information from us as we conduct the business of the credit union.

INFORMATION WE COLLECT

We collect non-public information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other sources
- Information about your transactions with us or others
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency

INFORMATION WE DISCLOSE

We do not disclose any non-public, personal information about you to anyone except as permitted by law. If you decide to terminate your membership or become an inactive member, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as permitted by law.

OUR SECURITY MEASURES

We restrict access to your personal and account information to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your non-public personal information.

If you have questions regarding this disclosure or any other credit union policy, please contact us at (573) 445-1845.

Account Number Search!

Can you find your account number hidden in this issue of Pencil Points? If so, contact us by **June 30, 2009**, to claim a great prize for winning our hidden account number search!

INFOBOX

Rates

Effective March 31, 2009:

	APR*	APY**
Primary Shares		
\$100 - \$4,999.99	.40%	.40%
\$5,000 and up	.60%	.60%
Specialty Shares	.40%	.40%
Christmas Club	.40%	.40%

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.

**APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are subject to change.

Contact the credit union or visit www.academicecu.com for rates on other term share certificates.

Holiday Closings

Academic Employees Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Memorial Day **Monday, May 25**
Independence Day **Friday, July 3**

Remember, even when our office is closed, you can still access your account 24/7 with your ATM or debit card, the convenience of our Voice Response Unit and online with CMYCUINFO!

Office Hours

Lobby

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Drive Up

Monday & Tuesday:
8 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.



2804 W. Ash • Columbia, MO 65203

Phone (573) 445-1845
Toll-free (888) 470-7770
Fax (573) 445-2068
www.academicecu.com

24 Hour VRU
(Voice Response Unit)
1-888-BCTCU24
(1-888-228-2824)

