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Credit union awards 14 scholarships

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Staff Writer

The Public Service Credit Union in Romulus took serving the public to another level recently when they presented 14 scholarships, each worth \$1,000.

Traditionally, the credit union awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors who planned to further their education. This year, the decision was made to extend the scholarship program to make it available to a wider and more diverse group of people.

The scholarship was not only increased from two to 14, but it was also made available to everyone furthering their education – not only high school seniors. The scholarship was open to high school seniors and adults attending a vocational school, college or university.

Amy McGraw, marketing director of Public Service Credit Union, said that the scholarship is “just another example of how Public Service Credit Union is dedicated to serving the public.”

“We know how much our members value higher education,” she said. “With the cost of higher education, we want to do anything we can to help our members.”

To apply, applicants had to be a member of the credit union and submit an essay about their college plans and why they thought they deserved the scholarship. A recommendation, school transcripts, extracurricular activities and volunteer service were also taken into consideration. Applicants were required to have a grade point average above 2.5.

The credit union has a membership of around 20,000, but last year, only seven or eight people applied for the scholarships. This year, the credit union received 51 applications, a number McGraw called “phenomenal.”

The 14 winners are from throughout the metro-Detroit area, and two of them are from Romulus.

Theresa Windom was the winner of the Dedicated Romulus High School Scholarship. She plans to attend the University of Detroit Mercy in the fall and pursue nursing and anesthesiology.

McGraw said that Windom was chosen to receive the scholarship partly because of her essay, which she wrote about wanting to go into nursing because her mother is a nurse.

Windom, who is involved in the Health Occupation Students of America and the National Honor Society, was happy to receive the scholarship.

“It feels great because it’s less of a burden for my mom, financially,” Windom said.

The other Romulus winner, Samina Haq, is a two-time winner. In addition to her \$1,000 scholarship this year, she won the Dedicated Romulus High School Scholarship when she graduated last year.

The scholarship committee didn’t know it was her when they chose her for the award, according to McGraw. The committee didn’t know anyone’s names when they were going through the applications.

Haq, who currently attends University of Michigan-Dearborn, was “very excited” to receive a scholarship from the credit union for a second year.

“I couldn’t believe it,” Haq said.

She is currently undecided on her major, but is leaning toward biology. She is involved in many activities on campus, including the Pakistani Students Association, the Muslim Students Association and the Student Activities Board.

Haq also spends a lot of her free time volunteering in the community. She recently completed a walk for mental illness and said that she volunteers wherever is needed.

Her tremendous amount of volunteering and her high grade point average were two of the reasons she was awarded the scholarship, according to McGraw.

Windom received her scholarship at the Romulus High School Honors Banquet on May 16. Haq and the other 12 recipients were honored during a ceremony.

<http://www.journalgroup.com/Romulus/4650/credit-union-awards-14-scholarships>

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