



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2026

Final weeks to apply for LAFCU's 2026 Write to Educate Essay Contest

Michigan seniors encouraged to submit a one-page essay for college scholarships



LANSING, Mich. — Michigan high school seniors have until March 31 to submit entries for LAFCU's 2026 Write to Educate Essay Contest, which will award a total of \$20,000 in college scholarships while supporting local nonprofits across the state.

The contest invites students to respond to this year's prompt: "Describe a problem facing your community and explain how you would help address or solve it. Discuss the impact your solution could have on others." By sharing their perspectives, participants highlight the diverse experiences that shape and strengthen Michigan communities.

The contest is open to all Michigan high school seniors, with no restrictions based on GPA, financial need or LAFCU membership. Participants are encouraged to submit a one-page, 500-word essay typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, with one-inch margins. To ensure impartial judging, students should not include their name or school name anywhere in the essay. Winners will be selected by April 24.

“The Write to Educate Essay Contest gives students a meaningful platform to share their stories, perspectives and creativity,” said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU’s chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer. “By eliminating barriers such as GPA requirements or financial need, LAFCU is proud to offer an opportunity that welcomes students from all backgrounds and encourages them to confidently express their ideas and aspirations.”

Now in its 18th year, the contest reflects LAFCU’s long-standing commitment to supporting Michigan youth in their pursuit of higher education. To date, LAFCU has donated more than \$140,000 through the Write to Educate program to help students attend college and support causes that matter to them.

“Write to Educate goes beyond a traditional scholarship program,” said Alyssa Troub, LAFCU’s digital marketing and community engagement specialist. “It invites students to reflect on their experiences, share innovative ideas and make a positive impact in their communities.”

Winning essays will be featured in the *Lansing State Journal*, the contest’s community sponsor. For full contest details and to submit an entry, visit lafcu.com/writetoeducate.

About LAFCU

Founded in 1936, LAFCU (pronounced laugh-cue) is a not-for-profit, member-owned credit union open to all who live, work, worship or attend school in Michigan, and to Michigan businesses. LAFCU serves more than 74,000 members and holds over \$1 billion in assets. With a particular focus on serving people of modest means, LAFCU is committed to enhancing its members' financial well-being and creating long-lasting positive change across generations. Awarded the prestigious Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award, LAFCU is known for its people-helping-people mission, which has led to award-winning financial literacy programs for all ages. A three-time honoree as a national ‘Best Credit Union to Work For,’ named a Best Place to Work for Women, and recognized globally for its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, LAFCU stands out for its commitment to creating an inclusive workplace. Learn more at www.lafcu.com.

###