



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
Kim Howes, Vice President of Marketing
First Commerce Credit Union
(850) 410-3544 / KHowes@FirstCommerceCU.org

First Commerce announces latest winners of MyWay Scholarship; next deadline: March 25

TALLAHASSEE — The cost of college's spring semester is \$1,000 easier for two local students after winning First Commerce Credit Union's latest MyWay Scholarship competition.

If you're an 18- to 29-year old student and that sounds like a good idea, take heed: The financial institution will be awarding two \$1,000 MyWay Scholarships to cover college costs in the upcoming summer or fall 2018 semesters. The deadline to apply is Sunday, March 25, 2018. High school or college students who are MyWay accountholders age 18-29 are eligible to apply.

"At First Commerce, we believe in empowering people to help ensure bright financial futures, one person at a time," said Cecilia Homison, CEO of First Commerce Credit Union. "We are impressed by the 6 students we have awarded MyWay Scholarships to so far, and our latest winners, Samantha Schroeder and Robert Skrob, are no exception."

Samantha Schroeder is a graduate of Chiles High School currently in her second year at the University of South Florida, majoring in biomedical sciences, with an eye toward graduate studies. Robert Skrob is a 2017 graduate of Leon High School planning to major in business administration at the University of Florida.

Schroeder opened her First Commerce Credit Union SmartStart checking account at age 16, while working as a cashier at Publix.

"As high school progressed, I worked more hours and started transferring money from my checking to my savings account," she said. "My goal was to not take out any loans in undergraduate school, especially when graduate school would be much more expensive." Four semesters into college, she is still loan free.

After blowing his money on "fast food, video games and movie tickets" in his freshman year of high school, Skrob found himself without the funds he'd need to buy the iPad Air 2 he coveted.

With guidance from his parents and books on the subject, he developed a savings strategy that included picking up odd jobs, bringing his lunch to school and watching movies at home. He watched his savings grow, and 10 weeks later, was able to buy his iPad.

“Looking back on my experience, I gained much more than a tablet; I gained skills to help me secure financial freedom for the future,” he said.

First Commerce awards two \$1,000 scholarships annually to members of the MyWay program who demonstrate excellence in school and beyond. Submissions are evaluated by a panel of independent judges from area institutions of higher learning. MyWay Scholarships are paid directly to the student's institution of higher learning may be used toward educational expenses including tuition, fees, and books. For more information and to submit an application and short essay/video, visit FirstCommerceCU.org/Community/MyWay-Scholarship/

MyWay is First Commerce's national award-winning program for 18- to 29-year-olds, which includes a free checking account with free tools including text/email alerts* and mobile banking to help members stay on top of their finances, a nationally recognized automatic savings account that rounds up debit card purchases to the next dollar amount and deposits the difference, instant issue debit cards, as well as financial education features. For more information about First Commerce's MyWay program, visit FirstCommerceCU.org .

* Standard carrier text/data rates may apply.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS: First Commerce Credit Union Executive Vice President Mary Estes presented the latest \$1,000 MyWay scholarships to local students Samantha Schroeder and Robert Skrob. The deadline to apply for the next round of scholarships for the summer/fall 2018 semesters is Sunday, March 25, 2018.

ABOUT FIRST COMMERCE CREDIT UNION: Established more than 75 years ago, First Commerce Credit Union is a full-service financial institution headquartered in Tallahassee, Fla., with more than \$500 million in assets that currently serves more than 50,000 consumer and business members in North Florida and South Georgia. First Commerce has 12 financial centers – eight in Tallahassee, and an office each in Marianna, Fla., & Thomasville, Ga., and two in Valdosta, Ga. The credit union also provides no-surcharge access to thousands of ATMs across the country through a credit union network as well as online and mobile banking, mobile deposit, and real-time text/email account alerts. For convenience for our members' busy lives, we provide extended hours of service in all of our drive-thrus. First Commerce offers a full array of consumer and business products and services. They include free checking for 18-29 year olds, 50+, and everyone in between; interest-bearing checking; savings; money market accounts; CDs; IRAs; accounts for kids and teens; mortgages; refinances; home equity loans; prepaid reloadable cards; identity theft protection; credit cards; and business loans and accounts. In addition, First Commerce offers a wide range of financial planning and investment services through our subsidiary, Six Pillars Financial Advisors, and commercial & personal insurance through First Commerce Insurance Agency. Anyone who lives or works in the following counties can take advantage of First Commerce's products and services: Leon, Gadsden, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Liberty, Wakulla, Gulf, Franklin, Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Baker, Dixie, Lafayette, Gilchrist, Holmes, Calhoun, Taylor, Washington, Walton, and Thomas & Lowndes counties in Georgia. First Commerce Credit Union is federally insured by the NCUA and is an equal housing opportunity lender. For more information, visit www.FirstCommerceCU.org or call 850.488.0035 or 1.800.533.5772.