

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2018

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**Make 2018 the Year You Take Control of Your Money!**  
*Washington Credit Unions Can Help You Become Financially Fit*

TIGARD, OR—Joining a gym, finally taking your dream vacation, or planning to spend more time with the family this year? Why not make financial fitness one of your New Year's Resolutions, too? It's do-able, and the first thing on your list should be to join a credit union.

Because credit unions are not-for-profit, cooperatives, you're a member—and an owner. Unlike for-profit financial institutions that must pay stockholders, credit unions return benefits back to you, the member. That means you pay lower fees, and get lower interest rates on your loans and credit cards.

**More than 3.5 million Washingtonians are member-owners of credit unions. Here's how that helped their financial fitness last year: \***

- Collectively, their Evergreen State credit unions delivered \$428 million in direct benefits right back to them.
- That's an advantage of \$120 that each member enjoyed because they banked with a credit union.
- And every Main Street household with a credit union member, saw benefits of at least \$229.
- Consumers who got their new car loans from a Washington credit union, are saving an average of \$210 in interest during each year of a 60-month, \$25,000 loan.
- The interest rate that Washington credit unions charge for credit cards, is as much as 5.4 percent lower than rates that profit-driven financial institutions are charging. That means Washington's credit union members spent \$104 million *less* of their hard-earned money on credit card interest rates, than bank customers spent.
- Credit unions cooperate. Most network their ATMS, meaning members have access to their money as they travel. They can use the ATM at almost any credit union, and they don't have to pay those annoying fees!

**Learn more at a credit union.**

Most credit unions offer financial education classes to consumers of all ages, in person or online. This includes credit building, retirement planning, and more. Nearly everyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Washington is eligible to join a credit union. Find out more at [www.asmarterchoice.org](http://www.asmarterchoice.org).

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*\*Source: Informa Research comparing not-for-profit and profit-driven financial institutions' interest rates and fees in the 12 months ending June 30, 2017; National Credit Union Administration and Credit Union National Association*

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The [Northwest Credit Union Association](#) is the not-for-profit trade association representing over 180 credit unions in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and their 6.5 million consumer members. Northwest Credit unions are not-for-profit cooperatives, owned by their members. Credit unions help members achieve their financial goals. All earnings in excess of operating expenses and required reserves are returned to members in the form of lower loan rates, fewer fees and higher interest paid on savings. For information on how to join a credit union, please visit <http://www.asmarterchoice.org>.