

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Mateo Credit Union Announces Scholarship Winner

REDWOOD CITY, CA – Since 2004, San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU) has been helping to ease the money worries of college freshmen (and their parents) by awarding \$500 scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who answer the challenge to write an essay on credit unions. Randolph Anthony Cousenes, who goes by Anthony, of San Mateo’s Hillsdale High School class of 2009 is this year’s lucky recipient. Anthony will be attending San Diego State University this fall and plans to use the scholarship to help buy books.

Anthony’s winning submission on this year’s topic “The Value of Having a Credit Union as Part of The Community,” cited his relationship with SMCU that began when he used to save up chore money he earned. In his essay, he explained how the education and assistance he has received from SMCU has helped him establish smart financial practices, noting that the people at SMCU “felt as if they were friends helping me understand this sort of stuff, not just bankers.” He noted, too, that maintaining an SMCU account while he’s in San Diego offers a convenient way for his mother to deposit money in his account to help him pay his expenses.

Anthony is Cuban and African American and speaks and writes fluently in Spanish and English, abilities that he feels will come in handy in the law enforcement career he plans to pursue after earning his criminal justice degree. He knows that part of his journey is establishing good credit and is taking advantage of an SMCU low-interest rate credit card to start on the right path to earning a solid credit history.

“We’re delighted to be able to help a young man like Anthony fund his education,” said SMCU President and CEO Barry Jolette. “Anthony exemplifies the qualities we value. In addition to submitting a fine essay, Anthony has a lengthy community service record

and robust extra-curricular résumé. That commitment to service is something we feel strongly about at SMCU. Whether Anthony returns to serve the law enforcement needs of our community or another, we are proud that we could play a small part in helping him pursue his dreams.”

SMCU scholarship essay contest application and essay rules are available at www.smcu.org starting in March. The contest is open to all San Mateo County high school seniors and features a different topic each year. To find out more about San Mateo Credit Union, please visit www.smcu.org or call DirectAssist toll-free at (888) 363-1725 Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

About San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU)

Founded in 1952, SMCU is a member-owned financial institution that currently serves more than 70,000 members, who live, work or attend school or church in San Mateo County. Managing more than \$600 million in assets, with six San Mateo County branch locations, SMCU provides a full range of financial services to its member-owners. For the branch nearest you, visit www.smcu.org.