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For Immediate Release

**Local credit union chapter
receives award for best community involvement**

Carbondale, IL., September 18, 2008 – The Egyptian Chapter of Credit Unions has received a Chapter Eagle award for best community involvement. The award was recently presented at the Illinois Credit Union League’s (ICUL) Chapter Leaders Conference held this year at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois.

The annual Eagle awards recognize credit union chapters for quality programs they provide their communities. The Egyptian Chapter was honored for its “Dress For Success” project.

This project was a collaborative effort between the Carbondale Community High School (CCHS), SIU Credit Union, the Egyptian Chapter, ICU Foundation, Carbondale Kiwanis, JCPenney, and John A. Logan College. The goal of this project was to support to CCHS consumer education and career planning classes by providing students with skills, knowledge, and attire necessary to present a professional image in job interviews.

On the first day of the event, project participants went to a cosmetology class at John A. Logan, where students there provided hair services and instruction on personal care. On day two, the students in the project were given \$100 and went to a local JCPenney, where they had to decide, under the guidance of store sales associates, high school staff and credit union volunteers how to purchase a professional outfit suitable for job interviewing. On the final day, students were instructed to iron their clothing, dress up, and participate in a mock interview conducted by high school and credit union staff.

Other benefits of the project included applying financial literacy training that SIU CU provided using materials of the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) in a real-life application. Through this project, students had to use their financial planning and budgeting skills when deciding how to best use their \$100. In addition, the program will be expanded to have students participate in job-hunting activities and record their experiences in a journal. Lastly, the Egyptian Chapter will increase its donation for the project.

The Egyptian Chapter of Credit Unions is comprised of credit unions and credit union officials in Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, White, and Williamson counties. In the chapter, there are 10 credit unions with \$168.3 million in assets and 29,374 members. As an integral and functioning part of the ICUL, credit unions are united into chapters defined by geographic boundaries. There are 26 credit union chapters throughout Illinois.

A credit union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that is owned by the members it serves. There are about 8,500 credit unions nationwide, counting more than 90 million consumers as members, and collectively hold about \$800 billion in assets. In Illinois, there are more than 430 credit unions with \$20.8 billion in assets, serving more than 2.7 million members.

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Note: The Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) is the primary trade association for credit unions in Illinois, which provides members with information, legislation and education. Membership is open to any credit union operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act.