

# ECSpotlight

NEWS OF INTEREST  
WITH OUR MEMBERS IN MIND

Spring 2025



## INSIGHT

### *A Few Words From Our CEO*

In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, I wanted to share a parable the likes of “David & Goliath”.

In terms of local financial institutions, ECSFCU might be considered a “David” while many of our competitors resemble “Goliath”. Some might cower to such comparison, but here at ECSFCU we revel in the challenge.

As we all know, life can be a struggle for school employees that are not “12-month employees”. As a result, the California Department of Education created the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program (CSESAP) to assist these Classified employees. It allows “eligible” Classified employees to set aside up to 10% of their annual salary in order to earn up to a “dollar-for-dollar” match. The biggest challenge of this program is for the employee to be able to set aside 10% of their annual salary for a full year in order to earn this rich benefit.

That is where ECSFCU has established a very meaningful “differential”. We have created an exclusive solution whereby we loan the employee the exact amount of their payroll deduction each month, thereby allowing the employee to receive a “Goliath” sized level of income for a “David” sized amount of interest expense. To be more precise, for an employee that can receive a \$5,000 “match”, ECSFCU would charge less than \$185.00, earning the employee a net benefit of \$4,815.00 on money they never had to live without. Too good to be true? Not at ECSFCU.

If your district offers this Classified employee benefit, we’re here to help.

I hope to C U soon.

Steven A. Devan  
President & Chief Executive Officer



**ECSFCU EAST COUNTY SCHOOLS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

Unlock your home's potential with  
**LOW-RATE HOME EQUITY LOANS**

**BETTER RATES THAN MOST BANKS**

Use your home's equity for what matters most!

Home Remodel  
Debt Consolidation  
Education Costs  
Dream Vacation

**\$100 Lowe's Gift Card to get started on your project!**

*\*Contact the branch for details.*

## ECSFCU EDUCATION CORNER



### The 50/30/20 Rule (Needs, Wants, Savings)

- **Understand the Breakdown** – Allocate 50% of your income to needs (rent, groceries, bills), 30% to wants (entertainment, dining out), and 20% to savings and debt repayment.
- **Categorize Your Expenses** – Clearly define what qualifies as a “need” versus a “want” to avoid overspending.
- **Automate Your Savings** – Set up automatic transfers, from ECSFCU's online banking portal, to your savings and investment accounts to ensure consistency.
- **Adjust as Needed** – If you live in a high-cost area, your “needs” might take up more than 50%, so adjust your percentages accordingly.
- **Use Budgeting Apps** – Apps like Mint, YNAB, or PocketGuard can help you stick to the rule effectively. Check out a few to see what you like!

### How to Track Expenses Effectively

- **Use an Expense Tracker** – Expense tracking apps (look for the free apps!) or spreadsheets help categorize your spending.
- **Record Expenses Daily** – Develop a habit of logging expenses immediately to avoid forgetting them.
- **Review Weekly & Monthly** – Analyze spending patterns to identify unnecessary expenses.
- **Set Spending Limits** – Establish budgets for different categories and stick to them.
- **Save Receipts & Statements** – Digital or paper receipts help verify transactions when needed.

### Creating a Simple Monthly Budget

- **Calculate Your Income** – Include salary, side hustle earnings, and passive income sources.
- **List Fixed Expenses** – Rent, utilities, insurance, and other essential recurring bills.
- **Account for Variable Expenses** – Groceries, gas, entertainment, and other fluctuating costs.
- **Prioritize Savings** – Follow the 50/30/20 rule or set a specific percentage aside for savings.
- **Adjust Monthly** – Review and refine your budget based on changes in income or expenses.

## Robert Nolan, CFO, Announces Retirement from East County Schools Federal Credit Union

After two decades of dedicated service to East County Schools Federal Credit Union (ECSFCU), Robert Nolan has announced his retirement effective April 30, 2025.

Beyond his contributions to ECSFCU, Robert has been a pillar of the East County community, actively supporting education and economic literacy. His commitment to fostering financial and professional growth for students and educators alike is evident through his extensive volunteer work and leadership roles.

Robert has served as Board President for both the Cuyamaca College Foundation and the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca College. His dedication to student success extends to local high schools, where he has volunteered in numerous capacities, including as a Virtual Enterprise Advisor at Granite Hills High School, a Senior Boards and Senior Defense volunteer at Helix Charter High School, and a Business Pathways Volunteer at El Cajon Valley High School.

ECSFCU and the community extend their heartfelt gratitude to Robert for his years of service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

## WorkforceConnect Expands Career Opportunities for Students Through Innovative Partnerships

WorkforceConnect is dedicated to bridging the gap between job seekers and the skills needed for sustainable careers. Founded on the belief that meaningful employment transforms lives and strengthens communities, the organization collaborates with businesses, schools, and government agencies to provide both technical and soft skills training. Their approach extends beyond job placement, fostering long-term career growth.

One of WorkforceConnect's key partnerships is with the Cajon Valley Union School District and Bostonia Global High School. This collaboration aligns with WorkforceConnect's mission by integrating career exploration into education, helping students identify strengths and explore career pathways. Through initiatives like the World of Work program and partnerships with organizations like the AGC Apprenticeship & Training Trust, students gain real-world experiences beyond theoretical learning.

The partnership with Bostonia Global was driven by the school's focus on competency-based education and individualized learning. WorkforceConnect helps students prepare for the workforce by offering hands-on learning experiences, exposure to different industries, mentorship opportunities, and skill-building workshops. The program emphasizes both technical expertise and essential workplace skills, ensuring students are well-rounded and job-ready.

To see the full interview with WorkForceConnect check out our website under "NEWSLETTER" for the link!




### SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 15th


## FREE SEMINAR – WILLS & TRUSTS

Learn from an estate attorney:

- basic components of an estate plan, why each are important
- considerations involved in the creation of an estate plan
- how to gain the power to control who inherits your property and who will care for you and your assets if you become incapacitated

PRESENTED BY:  
**Leanne Barbat Maestre**  
LAW OFFICES OF  
**Kimball, Tiry & St. John LLP**

 **ECSFCU**  
1069 Graves Ave.  
El Cajon, CA 92021

 **Thursday,**  
May 15, 2025  
5:30 p.m.



REGISTER AT:



## Thomas Gould & Paul Marsh \$1,000 Scholarships Are Available



High school seniors who are graduating in 2025 from any high school district and will be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university this fall are eligible to apply for one of two \$1,000 scholarships. Students who are not ECSFCU primary account holders are eligible to apply if a parent, grandparent, or immediate family member is an ECSFCU member. Selection is based on merit, character and campus/community activities.

## Applications due April 25, 2025

We believe in the power of education to transform lives. ECSFCU is proud to support the bright minds of our members' children and family who are committed to making a positive impact through learning. Apply for our Scholarship today!

Call or Text (619) 588-1515  
or visit:  
[EastCountySchools.org/  
scholarship](http://EastCountySchools.org/scholarship)



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2025

### Juneteenth National Freedom Day

Thursday, June 19, 2025

### Independence Day

Friday, July 4, 2025



### El Cagon - Main Office

1069 Graves Avenue, Suite 100  
El Cajon, CA 92021-4573

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wed: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**NEW HOURS!**

### Credit Union to You (CU2U)

Your office or place of business  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wed: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(619) 588-1515 Call to schedule

Phone (619) 588-1515 | Fax (619) 588-2197

[www.EastCountySchools.org](http://www.EastCountySchools.org)



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