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LSCU & Affiliates Celebrates 2024 INSPIRE Award Winners

TAMPA, FL – The League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates (LSCU & Affiliates) recently celebrated the winners of the 2024 INSPIRE Awards, presented during the second annual INSPIRE Conference, held November 13 - 15, in Tampa, Florida. This event, in conjunction with the Carolinas Credit Union League and the Global Women's Leadership Network (GWLN), brought together credit union leaders, advocates, and supporters to celebrate the role of women in the credit union movement.

The INSPIRE Awards recognizes exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the credit union movement and their communities. This year, LSCU & Affiliates is proud to honor two outstanding women who exemplify leadership, resilience, and dedication to the credit union industry.



The 2024 Credit Union Young Professional Award was presented to Indya Thomas, Member Experience Supervisor at Associated Credit Union. Indya's inspiring journey from teenage motherhood and homelessness to graduating from Georgia State University alongside her son is a testament to her determination and resilience. Over the past seven years, Indya has transformed the member service approach at Associated Credit Union, demonstrating exceptional leadership within the Member Experience team.

"Indya embodies everything the Credit Union Young Professional Award stands for—perseverance, leadership, and making a tangible difference in her community," expressed Samantha Beeler, President of LSCU. "Her story is a powerful example of how adversity can lead to extraordinary achievements, and we are proud to honor her with this recognition."



The 2024 Credit Union Executive Award was presented to Debbie Smith, CEO of Georgia United Credit Union, in recognition of her exceptional leadership and contributions to the credit union movement. Over the past three decades, Debbie has built relationships, fostered collaboration, and led Georgia United Credit Union through a period of tremendous growth, taking her credit union from \$950 million to \$2.2 billion in assets.

"Debbie's impact on the credit union movement is immeasurable and we are incredibly fortunate to be able to celebrate her during the second annual INSPIRE Awards," said Beeler. "Her leadership has not only grown Georgia United Credit Union into one of the top credit unions in the nation, but she has also mentored and guided countless other credit union leaders along the way. Debbie's legacy is a shining example of the power of collaboration and dedication to community service."

The 2024 INSPIRE Conference, designed by women, for women, continues to celebrate the achievements of women in the credit union movement and serves as a platform for empowering future leaders. LSCU & Affiliates is honored to recognize these incredible women and looks forward to continuing to highlight their contributions.

For more information about LSCU and future events, please visit <https://lscu.coop/education/>.

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ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF SOUTHEASTERN CREDIT UNIONS & AFFILIATES

The League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates represents nearly 300 credit unions throughout Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. It has a combined total of almost \$200 billion in assets and 12.4 million members. LSCU provides advocacy, compliance services, education and training, cooperative initiatives, and communications. For more information, visit www.lscu.coop. Follow LSCU on Facebook, LinkedIn, and X.