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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aitkin's Beau Ekelund Awarded Community Youth Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship

(Duluth, MN) July 30, 2010 – Beau Ekelund, a 2010 graduate of Aitkin Community High School, has been awarded a Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship in recognition of his accomplishments as a student, an employee and a community volunteer.

“Beau served as outstanding role model for our younger students,” wrote Dean of Students/Activity Director Daniel Stifter. “Beau has been faced with some adversity throughout his life and he always steps up and makes the most of the situations that are before him. He is a mature young man who always portrays a positive outlook on life.”

Beau has held a job throughout most of his high school career, as a custodian for Aitkin High School and as a sales clerk at The Sweetery. At Aitkin High School, he was involved in the Champions for Christ Youth Group, One-Act Play, and a number of efforts to help the less fortunate, including a food shelf drive and a fundraising drive for relief to victims of the Haitian earthquake. Beau plans to attend Central Lakes College in Staples with a major in graphic design. He hopes to work in advertising and Web page design.

The Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation provides educational scholarships, financial literacy education and financial support for organizations and activities that make its communities stronger for youth. The focus of the Foundation will be further shaped in part by three members of the board who are 21 years of age or younger. For more information, please visit membersccu.org or email communityyouthfoundation@membersccu.org.

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**Ben Scheuer Awarded MCCU Community Youth Foundation Scholarship
2010 Cloquet Grad Headed to Yale**

(Duluth, MN) July 19, 2010 – Benedict “Ben” Scheuer, a 2010 graduate of Cloquet High School, was awarded one of three Future Leaders Scholarships from the Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation.

Ben has an impressive record of achievement in the classroom and on the track and the trails. At Cloquet High, he participated in soccer, cross-country skiing, track, Knowledge Bowl and student council. He will be attending college 1,355.27 miles away from his hometown, at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

“Life is an adventure, and I want to see some new places,” said Ben, who plans to major in marine biology. He already has a head start - in 2009, he and a research partner studied the possible effects of climate change on Japanese Medaka Fish, winning a Grand Award at the State and Intel International Science Fair.

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Carlton Grad Brittany Zime awarded MCCU Community Youth Foundation Scholarship

(Duluth, MN) July 19, 2010 – Brittany Zime, a 2010 graduate of Carlton High School, was awarded one of three Future Leaders Scholarships from the Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation.

During her time at Carlton High School, Brittany was active in both athletic and academic extracurriculars while maintaining a GPA of over 4.0. She played volleyball and participated in track and field, and also took part in the National Honor Society, Peer Helpers and Junior Rotarians. Brittany is also active in her church, working as a volunteer Sunday School teacher.

Brittany plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a major in digital art and photography. Her mother, Deb, a graphic designer, inspired her interest in the field.

“When I was five, she started her own graphic design business based out of our home,” said Brittany, who hopes to one day own her own photography studio. “As I got older, I realized I had inherited her creative talent. Last winter, I found my passion when I bought my own digital camera.”

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Katelyn Konietzko Awarded Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation

(Duluth, MN) July 19, 2010 – Katelyn Konietzko, a 2010 graduate of Cloquet High School, was awarded one of two Creative Expressions Scholarships from the Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation.

Katelyn’s winning essay, titled “Food for Thought,” shares her experiences volunteering at the Damiano Center in Duluth. It encourages the reader to start focusing on the many gifts in their lives instead of complaining about the little things that go wrong.

“Most people go through their everyday lives never once giving thanks for what they have been given,” wrote Katelyn. “No one can understand how lucky he or she is until they see, with their own eyes, someone in a worse situation. I am grateful to have learned this lesson early in my life after I volunteered at the Damiano Center.”

At Cloquet High, Katelyn played volleyball and was active in the National Honor Society and Link Crew. She also volunteers at her church, Bethesda Lutheran, and enjoys spending time with her younger siblings, Kristi, Luke and Lance. Katelyn plans to attend The College of St. Scholastica and major in nursing.

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**Duluth Central's Trevor Esson, Budding Photographer, Awarded a
Community Youth Foundation Scholarship**

(Duluth, MN) July 30, 2010 – Trevor Esson, a 2010 graduate of Duluth Central High School and a budding photographer, has been awarded a Members Cooperative Credit Union Community Youth Foundation Creative Expressions Scholarship.

“Trevor always set high standards for himself in his projects and worked diligently to meet his artistic goals,” wrote his photography teacher, Erv Kuutti. “He was always enthusiastic and frequently went beyond the required effort in order to achieve the quality he sought in his photographic works.”

Trevor’s winning photographs are a series of black-and-whites set at a nursing home, where about eighty young adults spent time playing board games with the residents. Trevor captured the emotion on the faces of both the elder players and their student companions. The event was part of a retreat for youth of the ELCA Northeastern Minnesota Synod.

“We realized that many of these people do not have much family, therefore they might not get company too often,” said Trevor. “Just by donating a little of their time and introducing themselves, these youth realized they could make a significant impact in the lives of someone else.”

Trevor plans to attend Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa with a major in religion.

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