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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Members Cooperative Credit Union's BuckWise™ teen education program to launch in October

(Duluth, MN) September 10, 2009 – Members Cooperative Credit Union (MCCU) is launching its new teen program, BuckWise™, with a series of free financial education classes starting October 7. Upon completion of the program, each student will receive a \$50 deposit into his/her MCCU savings account and an entry into bi-annual drawings for an additional \$200 deposit.

Student loan debt has been called the single greatest problem facing this generation. Statistics also show startling rises in revolving and installment debt for college-aged young adults. Furthermore, payments are increasingly late or unpaid, necessitating the rise in car repossessions and bankruptcy protection. All the while, the current generation of teens is eager to learn about financial education, while the vast majority of schools and parents aren't teaching it.

"The solution to this alarming social issue is in our hands," said Laura Battisti, Financial Education Specialist at MCCU. Laura — an experienced and licensed educator in the state of Minnesota — designed the BuckWise™ curriculum and will lead the series of classes. "This is an opportunity and a responsibility that MCCU is uniquely positioned to address; one that will have a tangible impact on the communities we serve."

The four course program kicks off in October at MCCU's Duluth-Spirit Valley location and in November at MCCU's Cloquet location. Courses will be held each Wednesday in October (Duluth) and each Monday in November (Cloquet) from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Course titles include: *What Financial Services Are Right For You?*, *Start Smart Checking*, *Growing Your Future* and *C\$: Credit Score Investigators*. Ongoing courses will be held quarterly.

BuckWise™ is a program offered through MCCU to teens ages 13-18. It is designed to help community members lead more knowledgeable lives in money management and financial matters. Teens in the community who are not members of MCCU are encouraged to attend the free financial education classes.

About Members Cooperative Credit Union:

Members Cooperative Credit Union offers local service, smart financial products and dynamic education programs to the Duluth, Cloquet, Aitkin, and McGregor communities. MCCU is proud to be the largest credit union in Northern Minnesota, uniting communities since 1936 and serving its member/owners with more locations than any other credit union in the region. For more information on MCCU, visit membersccu.org or call 218-625-8500.

218-625-8500 | www.membersccu.org

Aitkin | Cloquet | Duluth – Central | Duluth – Miller Hill | Duluth – Spirit Valley | McGregor

