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To the Editor:

## **Ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Members First Credit Union's student-run branch inside Booker T. Washington High School**

Pensacola, FL – Members First Credit Union of Florida and Booker T. Washington High School will celebrate the opening of the new Credit Union Branch at Booker T. Washington High School with a ribbon cutting ceremony on **Wednesday, September 26, 2018**. Select community and school leaders will hear remarks from B. T. Washington High School officials and Members First Credit Union beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. The ribbon cutting and photo opportunity will take place at 10:20 a.m. followed by light refreshments and a tour of the Credit Union Branch.

“Business Partners like Members First Credit Union provide enhancements for the district’s career academies. Members First Credit Union will be offering hands-on opportunities to provide students with real world experiences. Working together with partners in the community will ensure the future employability of students. Members First Credit Union does so much for Escambia County School District to benefit both students and staff. This demonstrates just one more example of how Members First is stepping in to help students be successful and career ready.” said Superintendent Malcolm Thomas.

This initiative brings real-world financial literacy and education into the school and allows students enrolled in the school’s Marketing and Entrepreneurship Academy an opportunity to gain experience which will prepare them for college and future careers. Students will earn course credit and gain hands-on experience as they run daily operations of the Branch, including opening new checking and savings accounts, making deposits and withdrawals, and transferring money.

“We are happy to partner with Booker T. Washington High School and be a part of the financial education of young adults in our community. By providing students a better understanding of the basics of finance, we are giving them the tools to manage their money responsibly,” stated Caryl Greene, President and CEO of Members First Credit Union.

The Branch will provide convenient access to students, staff, and their families during the school day and by appointment. Members First employees will provide financial education seminars to students, faculty, and staff, as well as help support Washington High School's financial literacy curriculum. Students who were selected to run the branch received in-depth training during the summer which prepared them for operating the Credit Union Branch at Washington High. They'll receive experience and build skills in finance, leadership, management, and marketing which will tie back to the core classes taught in the Marketing and Entrepreneurship Academy at Washington High School.

"All of our staff and our students here at Booker T. Washington High School are happy to welcome our newest business partner, Members First Credit Union. Having their branch operating in the heart of our school makes them part of the *Wildcat* family," said Dr. Michael Roberts, Booker T. Washington's Principal. "I know they will agree that every day is a great day to be a *Wildcat*!"

This will be Members First Credit Union's first High School Branch location. The student-staffed Branch is not open to the public. Students, faculty, and staff have daily access to the financial services provided by the MFCU Branch at Washington High.

## **About Members First Credit Union**

Originally known as the Escambia County Teachers Credit Union, Members First Credit Union of Florida has been serving our local community for 64 years! Established in 1954, Members First currently operates five branches throughout Pensacola and Pace. Membership is open to everyone who lives, works, or attends school in Escambia, Santa Rosa, or Okaloosa Counties. For more information on Members First Credit Union, please visit [www.membersfirstfl.org/](http://www.membersfirstfl.org/) or call (850) 434-2211.

## **About Booker T. Washington High School's Marketing and Entrepreneurship Academy**

This program offers a sequence of courses which provide coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in the Marketing, Sales & Service career cluster. It also includes competency-based applied learning that contributes to academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, technical skills, occupation-specific skills, and knowledge of all aspects of the Marketing, Sales & Service career cluster.

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