

# CORE ESSENTIALS



## NINE WAYS TO BOOST YOUR EMERGENCY SAVINGS

It's important to be as prepared as possible for the unexpected. Having an emergency savings fund should be a top priority to help you manage unexpected expenses for everything from natural disasters to job loss, to vehicle maintenance. Here are nine ways to boost your emergency savings quickly.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. BANK YOUR CHANGE

Your spare change can be the key to a more robust emergency stash. Just empty your pockets every time you come home, then deposit that loose change when the jar fills up.

### 2. SPLIT YOUR PAYCHECK

Diverting a portion of your paycheck to a savings account is a great way to build an emergency fund quickly.

### 3. NEGOTIATE YOUR MONTHLY BILLS

From the cable company to your internet service provider, you may be able to negotiate better rates and pocket the savings.

### 4. TRIM YOUR BUDGET BY 10%

Implementing a 10% cut in spending across-the-board can help you build your emergency fund.

### 5. INVEST YOUR TAX REFUND

If you are in line for a tax refund, use that cash to boost your emergency savings and give yourself peace of mind. Instead of spending your refund, turn it into a lasting investment.

### 6. GET A SIDE HUSTLE

Increasing your income is a great way to build your emergency reserves, so look for a suitable side hustle. There are more ways to earn extra income than ever before, and the money you earn will go a long way toward building your savings.

### 7. FIND A BETTER INTEREST RATE

If you have a high-interest rate loan or credit card, research refinancing and balance transfer options to a lower interest rate. Use the savings to help you boost your emergency reserves.

### 8. SET A SAVINGS GOAL

If you do not know where you are going, you are unlikely to get there. If you want to build up your emergency savings, set a weekly and a monthly savings goal. Be sure to track your progress to make sure you stay on track.

### 9. KEEP YOUR EMERGENCY FUNDS SEPARATE

Having extra money in your checking account can be tempting to spend, so make your emergency fund off-limits. Stashing that cash in a separate savings account is a great way to reduce the temptation.

Save the date for a Facebook Live event on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. to learn more about preparing for the unexpected.<sup>2</sup>



## TEACHER GRANTS

We are pleased to announce that Teacher Grants are returning for the 2022-2023 school year.

### HOW IT WORKS

- » Grants are awarded twice a year (once in the fall and once in the spring).
- » A total of ten \$250 grants will be awarded for each application period.<sup>3</sup>

Funds received from this grant may go toward purchasing classroom materials, positive behavior incentives, classroom makeovers or other related items to impact student success.

### HOW TO APPLY

Visit [merituscu.net/teacher-grants](https://merituscu.net/teacher-grants) to apply by Thursday, September 15, 2022 for the first round of grants. Eligible applicants may complete and submit the form on our website or print and mail it to 515 Guilbeau Rd., Lafayette, LA 70506.

Fall award winners will be personally contacted and then publicly announced on our website and Facebook page.



## 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Every year we are proud to give back to our hard-working students by awarding six \$2,000 scholarships to eligible members graduating from high schools in Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion parishes.



Please join us in celebrating these incredible scholarship winners, wishing them the best for their bright futures ahead:

- » Alex Bertrand
- » Blake Gisclair
- » Sean Myers
- » Seth Noegel
- » Hannah Richard
- » India Walker

Read more about our recipients and their achievements at [merituscu.net/blog](https://merituscu.net/blog). Applications for 2023 scholarships will open in January and will be available on our website at [merituscu.net](https://merituscu.net).

## TAKE A VACATION FROM YOUR LOAN THIS SUMMER

Get extra cash for your summer vacation, home projects or other needs when you skip a payment on your vehicle or personal loan!

Request forms are available at all branch locations and on our website at [merituscu.net/skipapayment](https://merituscu.net/skipapayment).

### SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- » July is the last month to request a Skip-a-Payment.
- » For borrowers with more than one loan, you may skip a payment on each eligible loan.<sup>4</sup>
- » A \$29 fee per loan skipped must accompany request forms. Your account must be in good standing to request a Skip-a-Payment.

Visit a branch near you to complete your Skip-a-Payment request form or access the form on our website at [merituscu.net](https://merituscu.net).

# MAKE A GRAND COMEBACK WITH A PERSONAL LOAN

Ready or not, 'Back to School' will be here before you know it. This year, we're sweetening the season with a deal you don't want to miss. Between July 16 - August 31, 2022, members who finance a new personal loan with Meritus CU will be entered to win a grand prize of \$1,000 cash plus \$1,000 to donate to a school of their choice.<sup>5</sup>

Use the extra cash to buy uniforms and school supplies or to cover classroom fees and unforeseen expenses.

## HOW TO ENTER

Members will be automatically entered to win when they finance a personal loan with us during the promotional period.<sup>6</sup>

Call us at 866.989.2800, view [merituscu.net/grandcomeback](https://merituscu.net/grandcomeback) or visit a branch to learn more.



## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Meritus Credit Union would like to announce the retirement of two long-standing board members, Mr. Terry Roy and Mr. Allen A. Dugas. Both Mr. Roy and Mr. Dugas served on the board of directors for 61 years.

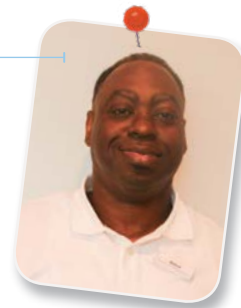
They offered parting statements during the credit union's annual meeting, held on Thursday, March 31, 2022. Dugas stated, "The credit union started out with two employees, and to grow to where we are now is amazing. Take good care of it. It's a great institution." Roy simply said, "I've gotten more than I've given."

We thank Mr. Dugas and Mr. Roy for their loyal service to Meritus Credit Union.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### RUBEN LIVINGSTON

Ruben joins the team at Main Branch as our newest Member Service Representative II. He is a UL Lafayette alumnus and enjoys riding horses in his spare time.



### KIERRA KEMPER-WEBB

Kierra was a student teller at the credit union when she was in the Business Academy at Acadiana High. She has returned to Meritus CU as a full-time teller at Main Branch.



### KERRIE PAGE

Kerrie enjoys spending time outdoors and decorating in her spare time. She has joined our Main Branch staff as a Call Center Representative. She dreams of one day visiting Paris.



### DENISE MYRICK

We are happy to welcome Denise back to the Meritus CU family! She has returned as a Mortgage Processor at Main Branch, but also owns and operates a farm.







## ONLINE & MOBILE BANKING

You can save time by banking at home – or anywhere there’s internet access. View account balances, send money with Zelle®, view your credit score and more. Additionally, with mobile banking, you can deposit checks! Visit [merituscu.net](http://merituscu.net) to enroll today.



## SAVE WITH A LOW RATE ON YOUR AUTO LOAN

Time for an upgrade? See us to get pre-approved financing for your next vehicle before heading to the dealership. Just purchased a vehicle and didn’t finance through us? Give us a call to see if refinancing would save you money!

### FEATURED SAVINGS & LOAN RATES

VISA® PLATINUM  
CREDIT CARD

**7.90%**

AS LOW AS 7.90% APR<sup>7</sup> ON  
PURCHASES

RV / BOAT / TRAILERS

**4.75%**

AS LOW AS 4.75% APR<sup>7</sup> FOR  
48 MONTHS

KASASA® CASH BACK  
CHECKING

**3.00%**

3.00% CASH BACK ON PURCHASES  
UPTO \$9/MONTH<sup>8</sup>

For more information about all of our rates and loan products, contact us today at 866.989.2800 or [merituscu.net](http://merituscu.net).

<sup>1</sup> Source: BALANCE. <sup>2</sup> Meritus Credit Union financial education and coaching services are intended only as informational and should in no way be construed as legal, accounting, investment, or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor and/or financial planner before making any investment or other financial decisions. <sup>3</sup> Applicants must be current teachers at schools located in our service area (Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion). <sup>4</sup> Participants authorize Meritus Credit Union to extend their final loan payment by one month and must resume making regular payments the month following their skipped payment. Interest will continue to accumulate on loans during the month each participant skips their payment. Excludes lease-like loans, momentum loans, mortgages, home equity, and Visa credit cards. Coverage may be affected for participants who have chosen GAP coverage on their loan. Only two Skip-a-Payments are allowed per year per loan. If payment is made through payroll deduction, it will be deposited into your regular savings account. All loans and deposit accounts must be current to qualify. <sup>5</sup> School must be located within one of our five parishes: Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin or Vermilion. <sup>6</sup> Winner will be randomly drawn from members who book fully funded personal loans between July 16, 2022 and August 31, 2022. Loan approvals are subject to qualification based on credit history. <sup>7</sup> Listed APRs assume excellent credit rating. Minimum and maximum loan amounts or credit limits apply. Your APR may differ based on your loan amount, repayment method, and other factors. <sup>8</sup> You will receive 3.00% cash back on up to a total of \$300 PIN-based/signature-based debit card purchases that post and settle to the account during that cycle period. A maximum of \$9 cash back payments may be earned per Monthly Qualification Cycle. \$25 minimum deposit is required to open the account. Enrollment in electronic services (e.g. online banking, e-statements) and log-ons may be required to meet some qualifications. Limit of one (1) account(s) per social security number. Contact one of our credit union service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions.

## CONNECT

### LAFAYETTE BRANCH

515 Guilbeau Road | Lafayette, LA 70506

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & LPSS Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.989.2800 | Fax 337.989.2816  
Toll Free 866.989.2800

### CARENCRO BRANCH

724 Veterans Drive | Carencro, LA 70520

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & LPSS Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.896.2900 | Fax 337.896.9200

### ACADIA BRANCH

331 Odd Fellows Road | Crowley, LA 70526

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & APSB Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.785.0810 | Fax 337.785.0201

### IBERIA BRANCH

1101 Parkview Drive | New Iberia, LA 70563

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & IPSB Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.335.1100 | Fax 337.335.1103

### BONJOUR TELEPHONE BANKING

800.291.3867

### ONLINE & MOBILE BANKING

[www.merituscu.net](http://www.merituscu.net)

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, July 4 - Independence Day (observed)  
Monday, September 5 - Labor Day



Federally insured  
by the NCUA



Equal Housing  
Lender



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