

November 15, 2023

TDECU launches new Foundation with historic first donation of \$10,000 to Brazosport College Food Pantry



Gulf Coast Market President and Foundation Secretary Joshua (Josh) Brian, Tracee Watts, Vice President of Advancement, Brazosport College, Alex Crouse, Director of Student Life and Intramural Programs, Brazosport College, Crystal Harris, Director of Community Development

Photo courtesy: TDECU

It was a night of firsts for [TDECU](#), Houston's largest credit union, as it celebrated the launch of the TDECU Cares Foundation by making a \$10,000 donation to Brazosport College's on-campus food pantry known as the Gator Mart. The new TDECU Cares Foundation is a company-sponsored private 501c3 that fosters financial empowerment and community well-being.

The event, which was held at [Dow Academic Center at Brazosport College](#), also introduced the TDECU Cares Community Partners. The new TDECU Cares Foundation will accept large-scale corporate donations and small individual donations that support their commitment to transforming local communities. At the event, [TruStage](#), a partner of the Foundation who shares the philosophy of people helping people, made the first-ever donation to the Foundation as part of the celebration.

The new TDECU Cares Foundation is more than just a charitable arm for the credit union. It also serves as a steward of transformative change as it seeks to promote financial empowerment as a

fundamental right for all. The Foundation launch event illustrated the credit union's commitment to protect Members by also featuring a Fraud Prevention Seminar.

Just in time for the busy holiday season, TDECU fraud experts, including Jason Miles, a certified fraud examiner and Vice President of Security and Financial Crimes; Melissa Stefka, Director of Enterprise Fraud Prevention; and Chris Soriano, the credit union's Financial Wellness Program Manager, shared valuable insights on how Members can prevent banking fraud. The event also featured real-time demonstrations to help Members set up digital banking tools to safeguard their accounts.

"As the holiday season nears, it's crucial for us to heighten our vigilance regarding our Members' accounts," explained Jason Miles, Vice President of Security and Financial Crimes. "Folks are preparing to travel and this means potentially using unfamiliar gas stations and ATMs. We want our Members and the community to know the importance of where they are using their cards and what business you're doing business with."

Here are some tips from TDECU's fraud experts that consumers can take advantage of this holiday season:

- Be aware of where you use your card
- Think before clicking during online shopping sprees
- Use websites and businesses you know are reputable
- Look for well-lit and high traffic gas pumps and ATM locations to avoid skimming events

The educational seminar was recorded and will soon be shared with all TDECU Members, ensuring a lasting impact on community safety. The new TDECU Cares Foundation is poised to empower Members and the greater community with the resources, knowledge and support needed at each stage of their financial journeys.

For media inquiries or interview opportunities, please contact Dionnica Porter at dporter@tdecu.org. For more information on fraud prevention, please visit <https://www.tdecu.org/security-fraud/report-fraud/>.

Media Contact:

Mike O'Neill
moneill@tdecu.org
346-901-4982

Dionnica Porter
dporter@tdecu.org
346-287-4321

About TDECU | Founded in 1955, TDECU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative with more than 382,000 Members and over \$4.7 billion in assets. TDECU currently has 39 service locations, including 35 Member Centers, and offers a complete selection of convenient, innovative, and competitive products and services, including a full suite of deposit products as well as mortgage, auto and personal loan products, online and mobile banking. TDECU also offers, through its subsidiaries, retirement planning and wealth management, personal and business insurance products. Members can also access a worldwide network of over 55,000 surcharge-free ATMs. For more information visit [TDECU.org](https://www.tdecu.org) or call (800) 839-1154.