TDECU and Smart Financial Credit Union Announce Intent to Merge

Two Legacies, One Vision.

Houston, TX — TDECU, Houston's largest credit union, and Smart Financial Credit Union, one of Houston's oldest credit unions, today announced their intent to merge, uniting two of Houston's most trusted financial institutions under a shared mission to improve lives and strengthen local communities. The proposed merger is expected to be finalized by the first quarter of 2026, pending regulatory approval and a member vote by Smart Financial.

The combined organization with total assets of nearly $6 billion will serve more than 460,000 members across Texas with a branch network of 48 locations. TDECU President and CEO Isaac Johnson will lead the merged entity, while Smart Financial CEO LeAnn Kaczynski will remain with the organization as Chief Integration Officer, for a period of one year to oversee integration efforts and ensure a seamless transition for members and employees.

"Stronger together. This partnership isn't just about growing. It's about affirming what it means to be a credit union in today's world by renewing our focus on efficiently delivering value and opportunity for our members and the communities we serve," said Johnson. "Members are at the heart of everything we do, and by building a stronger, more resilient credit union, we can create greater prosperity for our combined memberships through expanded services, deeper community investment, and a commitment to innovation. This partnership with such a well-respected and dynamic credit union like Smart Financial is not just about scale – it's about purpose."

Kaczynski echoed the sentiment: "Leading the team at Smart Financial, I have been proud to witness the results of their dedication and tireless efforts over the past several years to build it into a financial institution that is not only financially strong, but also fosters engagement with our people, members and communities. This merger is not a sudden development, but the result of conversations over several years. A partnership between TDECU and Smart Financial is strategic in so many ways as both organizations complement each other and bring a variety of unique strengths to the table. Combining our team with the equally exceptional staff at TDECU, positions us to create something very special. I look forward to working closely with Isaac and the TDECU team to ensure a smooth and successful integration."

TDECU's legacy of community investment through the TDECU Cares Foundation and strategic partnerships with the University of Houston, Houston Texans, and Buc-ees will be enhanced by Smart Financial's partnerships with Smart Financial Centre and the Smart Financial Foundation's relationships with multiple Houston-area charitable organizations such as Houston Children's Charity. "As we look ahead, we remain open to additional opportunities and partnerships that align with our shared mission and values," added Johnson. "This is about building something enduring—for our members, our employees, and the communities we call home."

Members of both credit unions will continue to conduct business as usual, with no immediate changes to their accounts or services. Additional information will be shared in the coming months as the merger process progresses.

For more information, visit TDECU.org or SmartCU.org.

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About Smart Financial Credit Union

Smart Financial Credit Union was founded in 1934 by a group of teachers from HISD, making it one of the oldest and most well-established credit unions in the Houston Metro area. With 13 locations in Greater Houston and over $800 million in assets, Smart Financial is a state-chartered credit union that is best known for providing exceptional member experience to its over 60,000 members. Smart Financial offers a wide-range of financial products and services including checking, savings, mortgages and consumer loans. In addition, through Smart Insurance Group, a division of SFCU, members have access to a wide range of insurance products as well. For more information, visit www.smartcu.org or engage with Smart Financial Credit Union on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X.

About TDECU

Founded in 1955, TDECU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative with more than 399,000 Members and over $4.9 billion in assets. TDECU currently more than 30 Member Centers across Texas 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, digital banking, and business/commercial services. 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 or call (800) 839-1154.