

We Are In This Together

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



A Note from Jennifer



[WATCH VIDEO UPDATE AT WECU.COM/YEAREND](https://www.wecu.com/yearend)

As we close out 2021, I am so proud to share with you all that we have accomplished to better serve our members and our local community.

WECU continues to be financially strong and healthy. This year, we were recognized as one of the 200 healthiest credit unions in the entire nation. We were also voted Best of the Northwest Gold in the Bellingham Alive Reader's poll for the seventh year in a row. Our financial cooperative has grown to now serve over 141,400 members. It is from this strength and growth that we can do even more for our membership and our community; and it is your membership and trust in WECU that makes this all possible. Thank you!

In 2021, we turned our sights towards the future—continuing to invest in WECU.

ENHANCED MEMBER LISTENING

As a financial cooperative, it is our imperative to build and grow WECU to serve the evolving needs of our membership. This year, Members have provided over 22,000 individual pieces of feedback.

ONLINE BANKING IMPROVEMENTS

It is our goal to provide our membership with the best experience possible, whichever way they choose to bank. This year, we rolled out improvements in both our online banking and mobile banking channels.

COMPETITIVE LOAN RATES

As one of Whatcom County's leading lenders, this year we've been able to provide our membership with some of the lowest interest rate loans in the history of the Credit Union.

SUPPORTING LOCAL NONPROFITS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

It is through the strength of our credit union, that comes from the loyalty and trust of our membership, that we can give generously to our local community. In 2021, we've provided more than \$400,000 to community groups and nonprofits.

WE DO BECAUSE WE CARE

Through our not-for-profit cooperative structure, we are all about people helping people, especially during challenging times. To support and provide assistance to our members and community after the devastating storms and floods in November, we made available Consumer and Business Flood Relief loan programs and donated \$15,000 to the Whatcom Community Foundation Resilience Fund.

We remain ready and committed to serve you and our local community. Together, we are stronger, and together, we make a meaningful difference.

Thank you for your membership!

Jennifer Kutcher
President/CEO

News and Notes

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held virtually February 17 on Zoom. RSVPs will be accepted at: wecu.com/annualmeeting and through our Contact Center starting on January 14 at 9am. The meeting is open to members age 18 or older and in good standing with the Credit Union. Attendance is capped at the first 500 registrations.

2022 VOLUNTEER ELECTIONS

WECU holds elections for its Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee each year at our Annual Meeting. For more information about the candidates, visit wecu.com/annualmeeting.



EDUCATION FIRST APPLICATIONS OPEN

Every year, WECU donates \$110,000 to the recipients of the Education First Grant Program. Applications are now open to nonprofits seeking to further Education in Whatcom County. 2021 recipients included Wild Whatcom, Whatcom Literacy Council, Futures Northwest, and Explorations Academy. **Learn more** wecu.com/educationfirst

STUDENT LOANS

WECU has partnered with Sallie Mae® to offer you student loan options to undergraduates and graduate students. **Learn more at** wecu.com/StudentLoan

WECU SPONSORS LYNDEN PARK

WECU has provided \$5,000 to the Glenning Schoolyard Park project in Lynden which will be used to build a new playground for the community to enjoy for generations.

Member Benefits

TURBO TAX

Time to get a jump on the tax season. As a member of WECU, you can save up to \$15 on TurboTax products.

COSTCO AUTO PROGRAM

Save money and make your next auto purchase a breeze. The Costco Auto Program provides members pre-arranged pricing through its network and select dealers. There are added perks when you finance your vehicle through WECU.

WWU BASKETBALL TICKET BOGO

WECU Members can buy one ticket and get one free when they show their WECU debit or credit card.

Season of Sharing



This holiday season we celebrated the spirit of generosity through the WECU Season of Sharing Campaign. At various events, we invited the community to nominate ten nonprofits to each receive \$1,000.

WECU SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER

SALVATION ARMY GIVING TREES

Team WECU hosted Salvation Army Giving Trees in several branch lobbies.

WECU SPONSORED THE FERNDALE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

We offered hot cocoa from member business, Mug Shots.

JINGLE BELL RUN

WECU had one of the largest teams in the Bellingham Jingle Bell Run, benefitting the Arthritis Foundation.

WECU SPONSORED THE NORTHWEST LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

We offered hot cocoa from member business, Muddy Waters.

WECU SPONSORED THE FAIRHAVEN WINTERFEST & BIKE PARADE

WECU offered free candy canes at the Fairhaven Winterfest Holiday Market and Lighted Bike Parade.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: **Mon, Jan 17**
Presidents' Day: **Mon, Feb 21**