

March 2014

## New Private Student Loan Helps Fill College Funding Gap

American Eagle Federal Credit Union will soon be introducing a new private student loan program just in time for fall 2014 college tuition bills that gives students and families another way to pay for college.

We are partnering with Credit Union Student Choice to help fill funding gaps that rising tuition and federal aid can leave behind. This growing gap between what college costs and the financial aid available is causing many families to seek additional loans to pay for higher education.

### Undergraduate Loan Highlights

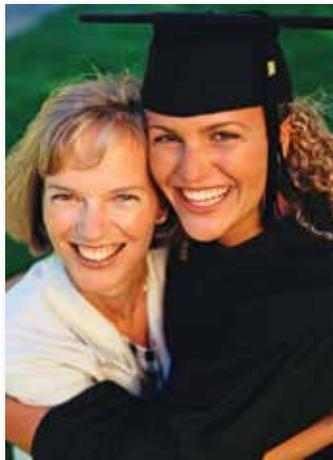
- No application fee and no prepayment penalty
- Variable-rate Line-of-Credit with 20- or 25-year term
- Apply once and borrow up to \$75,000 over a 5-year draw
- Funds are paid each semester directly to the participating school
- Deferred payments until 6 months after graduation

### Consolidation Loan Highlights

- No application fee or prepayment penalty
- Variable-rate loan with 15-year repayment term
- Borrow from \$5,000 to \$100,000
- Refinance existing private student loans

We will have a dedicated, student-focused website that provides students and families with the tools and resources needed to make a smart decision when financing college. The site includes articles about choosing a college, the financial aid process, easy-to-use calculators, glossary of common terms, a scholarship search tool, and a simple, online application process.

Although we are not currently accepting applications, educational resources can be found at [www.studentchoice.org](http://www.studentchoice.org). Watch for our new student loan program and website coming soon.



### Newington Branch – COMING SOON

Slated to open in the summer of 2014, American Eagle FCU continues construction on its new branch located at 3579 Berlin Turnpike in Newington. It will share a plaza with some of your favorite restaurants and coffee shops—Starbucks, Chipotle, and DiBella's Submarines. This full-service branch will offer a welcoming member experience, complete with an Internet lounge. It will also include teller and new account services, consumer loans, mortgages, investment services, a drive-up teller, and a 24-hour, drive-up ATM.

**American Eagle**  
Federal Credit Union

**EVERYWHERE YOU GO.**  
**60,000 FREE ATMs**  
**Nationwide**

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# Prepare Your Taxes the Right way With TurboTax Online



American Eagle FCU is offering up to \$15 off on TurboTax® Online products. TurboTax® guides you through your tax return step-by-step, double checks for accuracy, and files your federal and state return electronically. The site is updated with all the new tax laws to help you maximize your tax savings. Have your tax refund direct deposited into your American Eagle FCU account and receive your refund in as few as 8 days.

You can access TurboTax® Online through our web site at [americaneagle.org](http://americaneagle.org). The deadline for filing your 2013 tax return is Tuesday, April 15, 2014.

## AUTO LOAN SPECIAL

### New & Used Auto Loans

#### Purchase or Refinance

UPTO 84 MONTHS AS LOW AS

# 1.99% APR

#### • 100% Financing Available

\*Annual Percentage Rate based on credit score model year and term selected. Rates effective February 14, 2014, and subject to change without notice. Includes 0.25% rate discount for automatic payment from an AEFCU Checking account. Example: monthly payment of \$17.53 per thousand borrowed at 1.99% APR for 60 months and model years 2011 - 2015. Excludes refinance of existing AEFCU auto loans. Other rates and terms available. Rates and terms available on vehicles older than 2011. Other terms governed by Credit Union Lending Policy.

## New & Improved Mobile Banking

We go where you go 24/7. On March 5, 2014, the mobile banking app will streamline into a single app. If you like the convenience of banking on-the-go, download the new app "AEFCU" on your mobile device. If you already have the app, you'll need to download the new app, too!

- Deposit checks right from your phone with Deposit On-The-Go
- Transfer between your American Eagle FCU accounts
- Pay bills
- View account history
- Branch and ATM locator
- Receive alerts on your phone
- Easy to use and secure



Note: Members who currently have the separate "Deposit On-The-Go" app will need to download the new app on March 5, 2014. Separate communications have been sent to those affected. For more information, click here.. 

## FREE Electronic Recycling and Paper Shred Day, Saturday, April 26, in East Hartford

In celebration of "Earth Week," American Eagle Federal Credit Union is holding a free Drive-Thru Electronic Recycling and Paper Shred Day on Saturday, April 26, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at American Eagle FCU, 417 Main Street, East Hartford. The event is free and open to members and non-members.



### Electronics Recycling

SpaceFitters will provide safe and secure recycling of electronics equipment, including computers, laptops, monitors, printers, cables, wires, mice, televisions, telephones, light bulbs, batteries, and lamps. Do not bring air conditioners, kitchen appliances, microwave ovens, freezers, washers, and dryers.



### Paper Shredding

Iron Mountain will provide safe and secure shredding of paper and file folders, including staples, clips, and rubber bands. There is a three-box/bag limit per person.



At last September's event, we processed approximately 285 vehicles, which resulted in 9,700 pounds of paper shredding and 10,000 pounds of electronics recycling. E-mail Anita Castora with any questions at [anita.c@aeFCU.com](mailto:anita.c@aeFCU.com) or call 800.842.0145, ext. 5521

The shredding event will take place rain or shine. For more information, visit [americaneagle.org](http://americaneagle.org).

## Did You Know It's Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week?

*Ready for tax season? If you haven't heard about tax identity theft, you may not be.*

This week is Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week. Tax identity theft happens when someone files a phony tax return using your personal information — like your Social Security number — to get a tax refund from the IRS. It also can happen when someone uses your Social Security number to get a job or claims your child as a dependent on a tax return. Tax identity theft is the most common form of identity theft reported to the Federal Trade Commission. The IRS says tax identity theft is a top priority and says it has hired new staff, explored new technologies, and adopted new procedures to fight it.

"Tax identity theft is a significant and growing issue," said Jessica Rich, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "It's critical that we make sure consumers are aware of how they can prevent it and, if they are victimized, what steps they can take to recover as quickly as possible."



**Tax identity thieves get your personal information in a number of ways. For example:**

- someone goes through your trash or steals mail from your home or car
- imposters send phony e-mails that look like they're from the IRS and ask for personal information
- employees at hospitals, nursing homes, and other businesses steal your information
- phony or dishonest tax preparers misuse their clients' information or pass it along to identity thieves

**So, what can you do about it? To lessen the chance you'll be a victim:**

- file your tax return early in the tax season, if you can, before identity thieves do.
- use a secure Internet connection if you file electronically, or mail your tax return directly from the post office. Don't use unsecure, publicly available Wi-Fi hotspots at places like coffee shops or a hotel lobby.
- shred copies of your tax return, drafts, or calculation sheets you no longer need.
- respond to all mail from the IRS as soon as possible.
- know the IRS won't contact you by e-mail, text, or social media. If the IRS needs information, it will contact you by mail. Don't give out your Social Security number (SSN) or Medicare number unless necessary. Ask why it's needed, how it's going to be used, and how it will be stored.
- get recommendations and research a tax preparer thoroughly before you hand over personal information.
- if your SSN has been compromised, contact the IRS ID Theft Protection Specialized Unit at **800.908.4490**.
- check your credit report at least once a year for free at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) to make sure no other accounts have been opened in your name.

What if you are a victim? Tax identity theft victims typically find out about the crime when they get a letter from the IRS saying that more than one tax return was filed in their name, or IRS records show they received wages from an employer they don't know. If you get a letter like this, don't panic. Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 800.908.4490.

More information about tax identity theft is available from the FTC at [ftc.gov/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/idtheft) and the IRS at [irs.gov/identitytheft](http://irs.gov/identitytheft).

### **New and Improved Visa® Platinum "Member Rewards" Coming Soon**

This spring the Credit Union will introduce a new and improved Member Rewards points program for our Visa Platinum Rewards cardholders. This new program will replace the existing CURewards points program. Member Rewards will offer an improved website experience with point totals posted and updated daily. Member Rewards will offer more redemption choices for travel, merchandise, and gift cards. Cardholders will also be able to redeem points for cash as well as convert points to cash for donation to their favorite charity. A dedicated Member Rewards Contact Center will be open seven days a week with generous business hours to answer questions and redeem points.

All points that members have accumulated in CURewards will be transferred to Member Rewards during the conversion this spring. Members will continue to earn 1 point for every \$1 in qualified Visa purchases. All Visa Platinum cardholders will receive more information about Member Rewards by mail and/or e-mail prior to the conversion.



## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### Bloomfield

699 Cottage Grove Rd.

### Cromwell

4 Hammerhead Pl.

### East Hartford

417 Main St.

### Enfield

201 Elm St.

### Farmington

4 Farm Springs Rd.

### Glastonbury

109 Sycamore St.

### Manchester

304 Broad St.

### Newington (Coming soon)

3579 Berlin Tpke.

### Plainville

378 New Britain Ave.

### South Windsor

530 Buckland Rd.

### Southington

888 Queen St.

### Vernon

455 Hartford Tpke. (Route 30)

### West Hartford

1245 New Britain Ave.

## MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

Membership is open to everyone in Hartford, Middlesex, and Tolland counties in Connecticut.

## MEMBER SERVICES

### 24-Hour Telephone Banking

860.568.3802 or 800.843.1151

### 24-Hour Online Banking

[americaneagle.org](http://americaneagle.org)

e-mail: [info@americaneagle.org](mailto:info@americaneagle.org)

### Member Contact Center

860.568.2020 or 800.842.0145, ext. 5101

Credit Union News is an informational bulletin published by American Eagle Federal Credit Union. We welcome your questions and comments. Please send your correspondence to: Marketing, American Eagle FCU, 417 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118 or e-mail us at [info@americaneagle.org](mailto:info@americaneagle.org).

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## Design Your Own Visa® Platinum Card Coming Soon

This spring the Credit Union will offer the option of personalizing your Visa Platinum card with a custom photo. Start looking through your digital images for that perfect picture to show off every time you make a purchase with your American Eagle FCU Visa credit card. Watch for more details coming soon.



## Asked and Answered: Key Questions about Retirement Income Planning

Managing money in retirement involves decisions about withdrawal rates, asset allocation, and a host of other factors that will impact your lifestyle and how long your assets will last. Following are some straightforward answers to commonly asked questions about planning for income needs in retirement.

### When should I begin thinking about tapping my retirement assets and how should I go about doing so?

The answer to this question depends on when you expect to retire. Assuming you expect to retire between the ages of 62 and 67, you may want to begin the planning process in your mid- to late 50s. A series of meetings with a financial advisor may help you make important decisions such as how your portfolio should be invested, when you can afford to retire, and how much you will be able to withdraw annually for living expenses. If you anticipate retiring earlier than age 62 or working later than age 67, you may need to alter your plans accordingly.

### How much can I afford to withdraw from my assets for annual living expenses?

As you age, your financial affairs won't remain static: Changes in inflation, investment returns, your desired lifestyle, and your life expectancy are important contributing factors. You may want to err on the side of caution and choose an annual withdrawal rate somewhat below 5%; of course, this depends on how much you have in your overall portfolio and how much you will need on a regular basis. The best way to target a withdrawal rate is to meet one-on-one with a qualified financial advisor and review your personal situation.

[Click here to read the entire article online.](#)

### For additional information, or to discuss your retirement plans, call one of our financial consultants.

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Not NCUA Insured | No Credit Union Guarantee | May Lose Value