



Contact: Kristen Patton
SVP, Marketing
770.580.6015 | kpatton@peachstatefcu.org

Peach State Federal Credit Union Awarded Grant for \$20,000 to Promote Financial Literacy



Pictured: Peach State Business Development Representative, Alicia Fitts; Community Sustainability Enterprise Founder and President, Deirdra Cox; Student, Zykia Lawrence; and Reaching Potential through Manufacturing Principal, Dr. Jason Moore at Reaching Potential through Manufacturing in Augusta, Georgia

Lawrenceville, GA (December 7, 2018) – Peach State Federal Credit Union has been granted \$20,000 from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) to increase outreach to underserved communities for the second year in a row.

Peach State received the designation of a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in 2016. CDFIs are financial institutions that are committed to providing affordable lending and financial services to help low-income and other disadvantaged people and communities join the economic mainstream.

The credit union works closely with Community Sustainability Enterprise (CSE) to deliver this commitment.

CSE, founded by Deirdra Cox, is a Georgia-based non-profit organization whose mission is to build sustainable communities through public-private sector partnerships. Cox, a former banker with a background in community development has formed a connection between CDFIs like Peach State and local schools to provide financial literacy training and workforce development for areas that have been designated as underserved.

“We are thrilled to be able to continue our work with Peach State to reach out and lift up members of the community who may need training to elevate their careers and financial situations,” remarked Cox. “The grant will allow us to take the financial education and capability training with the students at Reaching Potential through Manufacturing (RPM, a school-based public-private partnership, between Textron and Richmond County Schools) to the next level, which includes one-on-one financial coaching and goal setting. We will also continue our pre- and post-employment readiness and coaching with RPM graduates. We are helping these young adults entering into the workforce as full-time employees understand and sign up for their benefits options, while coaching them financially, so they can set attainable short- and long-term financial goals, like a purchasing a car or homeownership.”

“Last year, in partnership with CSE, we were able to provide almost 1,000 hours of financial literacy training to people throughout the Peach State service area, including work with Atlanta’s On the Rise Financial Center, Augusta’s RPM Program, Gwinnett Technical College and Central Gwinnett High School, just to name a few,” said Peach State’s Chief Administrative Officer, Demitra Houlis. “We are so pleased to be able to lift up the communities we serve through these grants and we’re looking forward to expanding the reach of this work.”

About Peach State Federal Credit Union

Peach State is a \$484 million credit union that serves more than 58,000 members in Georgia and South Carolina. As a financial cooperative, Peach State’s mission is to meet the needs and exceed the expectations of its member-owners. To learn more, visit www.peachstatefcu.org or www.peachstatefcustories.coop.

###