

# Member Insights



**MERCK EMPLOYEES  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

*From the desk of the President/CEO:*

## Improve Your Financial Wellness and Have a Chance for \$250 Gift Card

April is National Financial Literacy Month and your credit union is here to assist you in improving your financial IQ!

Starting April 1, members are invited to visit our Financial Wellness Center at [www.merckcu.com](http://www.merckcu.com) and be entered into a raffle for 10 \$250 gift cards. All you have to do is commit to improving your financial wellness by taking five (5) education modules from the Financial Wellness Center.

We are committed to improving our members' financial wellness and as always ask members to consider the credit union for any assistance in your borrowing needs. The credit union provides a wide array of loan products to meet your borrowing needs. We of course also offer some of the most competitive savings products. It's never too late to start putting money aside for your financial goals.

Dreaming of retirement? I also encourage you to reach out to one of our financial advisors for a complimentary retirement check-up. There's no commitment and you will get a snapshot of how your retirement picture looks. Please contact [Lisa.King@cunamutual.com](mailto:Lisa.King@cunamutual.com) to set up your check-up!

Finally, I want to thank members for sticking with us during our recent credit card conversion. We are confident that the new program will result in a better card experience! As always if you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me at [paul.gentile@merck.com](mailto:paul.gentile@merck.com).



Thank you for your membership!

Paul Gentile  
President/CEO

## Now is the Time to Improve Your Financial Wellness

Merck Employees Federal Credit Union is committed to improving the Financial Wellness of our members and their families. April is National Financial Literacy Month and a wonderful opportunity to focus on your Financial Wellness. Just as it is vital to maintain our physical health, being financially fit is critical to overall wellness.

Our online Financial Wellness Center is an interactive online platform of financial education modules covering a wide variety of financial topics. From basic budgeting and saving, to planning for retirement and understanding taxes, this platform can help improve your financial IQ!

We are always working towards helping our members improve their Financial Wellness and one of the best ways to do that is to be well-informed on personal financial issues. Using our online Financial Wellness Center, you can take advantage of a dynamic education platform to learn about everything from financing a new home or your child's college education, to saving for retirement and dealing with unplanned expenses.

The Financial Wellness Center platform allows you to go at your own pace and gives you the option to test your knowledge as you go. The platform includes nine topic playlists – each with pre-selected modules. For the month of April, all employees are encouraged to take courses at our Financial Wellness Center. **Members who complete all five modules of the Financial Literacy Month Playlist are entered into a raffle for one of 10 \$250 gift cards!**



## Rahway Branch Construction Update

The main office of the Merck Employees Federal Credit Union in RY32 (Rahway) is currently closed for renovations. Credit Union members are encouraged to visit the Upton Place branch office during the closure for the full range of Credit Union services. A second drive-thru window has recently been opened at Upton Place, providing members with another convenient way to access the Credit Union.

In addition, Merck Employees FCU offers a full range of online and mobile banking services. [Visit www.merckcu.com/resources/online-account-services](http://www.merckcu.com/resources/online-account-services) for more information.

## Featured Loan & Deposit Rates

**Auto Loans**  
as low as  
**2.75% APR\***

**E-Checking**  
as high as  
**0.25% APR\***

**Credit Cards**  
as low as  
**8.28% APR\***

**Savings**  
as high as  
**1.00% APR\***

**IRAs**  
as high as  
**1.75% APR\***

**Home Equity**  
as low as  
**3.25% APR\***

\*Annual percentage rate. Visit [www.merckcu.com](http://www.merckcu.com) or visit a branch for more information.



**Applications for Credit Cards Have Reopened.**

Apply today for our NEW low rate, high reward Visa Credit Cards.

Visit [www.merckcu.com](http://www.merckcu.com) for more information.

## Looking for More Financial Literacy Resources to Build Your Personal Finance Acumen?

The credit union's Financial Wellness Center is a fantastic resource for improving your financial literacy and learning how to accomplish specific tasks in your financial life. But, if you are looking for more resources for improving your financial literacy, we have some other resources to share.

Books and magazines are a great way to learn about a variety of financial topics, however, it's important to find a publication or author writing at your level. Some books and magazines that may help you in your path for financial wellness include:

### Books

- *Personal Financial for Dummies* by Eric Tyson – While the title may be a bit embarrassing, the book covers everything from budgeting and investing in mutual funds to understand auto insurance and navigating the financial aspects of a divorce.
- *Why Didn't They Teach Me This in School?* By Cary Siegel – This book provides easily digestible advice on standard topics such as budgeting, investing and housing.

### Magazines

- *Kiplinger* is the only print magazine focused entirely on investing and money management. It provides clear-cut advice for everyday individuals and contains articles on investments, tax strategies, estate planning and more.
- *Barron's* is a more advanced publication and is geared toward someone who already has a fairly strong grasp on how the markets work. It is a great tool for understanding the outlook of a specific industry or company.

If you can't seem to find time to read or have trouble getting through a book on personal finance, there are alternatives for you as well, including audiobooks and podcasts.

### Audiobooks

- *Rich Dad Poor Dad* by Robert T. Kiyosaki – This highly

popular personal finance book translates well in the audiobook format, where listeners are privileged with getting an impassioned talking-to by an expert who feels like a particularly smart and paternal friend.

- *Your Money or Your Life* by Vicki Robin & Joe Dominguez – It's no secret that many feel money is the root of all problems. Author Vicki Robin agrees, but takes it one step further by proposing that it's actually our relationship that money that forms the root of all problems. Robin herself provides listeners with the tools to re-evaluate and change money relationships.

### Podcasts

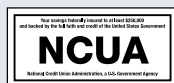
- *ChooseFI* is focused on the popular "Financial Independence" movement that involves making smart money decisions, living intentionally, earning more money, spending less money and reaching retirement sometime in your 30s or 40s. The podcast varies its topics with episodes on relationships and money, emergency fund development, wealth building, the best reward credit cards and more.
- *BiggerPockets* offers three separate financially-focused podcasts—one specifically on money, one on real estate investing and one on business. Specifically, the *BiggerPockets Money* podcast provides two episodes each week to help listeners get their financial lives in order.

Improving your financial literacy is a great way to make sure you are making healthy money habits for yourself and your family. There are more places than ever to get information and become educated on personal finance. Start today!



Member Services: 732-594-3317  
 Loan Department: 732-594-3018  
 Debit Card Lost/Stolen: 800-554-8969  
 Credit Card Lost/Stolen: 800-237-6211

Established in 1936, Merck EFCU is federally-chartered and federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.



**MERCK EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

**VIRTUAL 85th ANNUAL MEETING**  
*April 27, 2021*

Visit [www.merckcu.com](http://www.merckcu.com) for more information.

