Audra Burger Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Tribute:** This scholarship was created in memory of Ms. Audra Burger’s dedication to the Family Savings Credit Union (FSCU). Ms. Burger’s business/financial career started in 1954 when Family Savings Credit Union was in its infancy. Ms. Burger was employed with FSCU for 34 years. Immediately after her retirement, she had the honor to serve on the Family Savings Board of Directors until her death. She served faithfully on the FSCU Board of Directors for 30 years, with a large number of those years as Treasurer. Her total yearly service to Family Savings Credit Union accumulated to 64 years. Family Savings was among her many passions, and she is someone who helped grow and nurture "The Credit Union" into what it is today.

In civil service, Ms. Burger served Etowah County for 30 years as Chief Clerk of Elections for the Tillison Bend Water Authority Voting Precinct.

**Award:** The Audra Burger Scholarship is a renewable award intended to provide supplemental funding to full-time students to any accredited two- or four-year college or university within the United States of America. The award is renewable annually for four years providing the recipient continues to maintain the standards of these Guidelines.

The award is not restricted to any specific area of study or academic degree, but does give priority to students majoring in Finance, Accounting, or Business Administration. Furthermore, the scholarship is designated to any student of an FSCU employee or retiree with a minimum of 12 months of service.

Depending on the Fund’s annual assets, the Foundation will project and allocate the distribution available for awards each year. The Fund is intended to provide supplemental funding for full-time enrolled students to an accredited college or university.

The Community Foundation will project and allocate the assets available for scholarship awards depending on the Fund’s annual income. This scholarship is strictly funded based on available assets. The award is renewable and may include institutional room and board, books and fees. Even though a scholarship is listed as “renewable” this does not guarantee a future award.
Moreover, the award amount can change each year or semester based on available assets; therefore, recipients are encouraged to apply for other available financial resources.

Due to the renewable nature of the fund, it may not be available on an annual basis. Please contact the Foundation to inquire about award dates.

**Eligibility:** Family Saving Credit Union employees’ or retirees’ children/grandchildren are eligible to apply for the scholarship without regard to race, religion, gender, national origin or disability. Applications will be ranked using the following priorities: (1) majoring in Finance, Accounting, Business Management; (2) Display attributes of a positive role model, mentor, advocate or leader; (3) Strong community service; (4) Students attending Jacksonville State University (student may attend other colleges or universities); and, (5) students having a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5, yet motivated to succeed academically at an institution of higher learning.

Members of Burger family, and all donors and relatives of those donors, who contribute more than two percent of the Fund’s assets, are ineligible to receive a scholarship from the Fund. In addition, the Foundation’s Board of Trustees, former trustees, staff and Scholarship Selection Committee members, including their spouses, children, adopted children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, are prohibited from applying or receiving any scholarship, grant or financial award from the Foundation. Based on IRS regulations, this disqualifying exclusion exists for three (3) years after concluding volunteer service or employment.

**Application:** Application and Guidelines are available online at www.yourcommunityfirst.org. The Community Foundation will maintain and revise as necessary the guidelines and application documents. Applications must be electronically submitted to the Community Foundation by **March 1 of each year**.

**Scholarship Selection Committee:** In compliance with federal law, scholarship recipients shall be selected by the Community Foundation’s Scholarship Selection Committee, solely appointed by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. The committee will submit their recommendations to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees for their final approval.

**Review Process:** Students are required to submit the application packet on-line at www.yourcommunityfirst.org by **March 1**. Foundation staff will screen the application for clarity and completeness. The applications deemed by Foundation staff to be clear and complete will be presented to the Scholarship Advisory Committee for review and scoring. The Committee will have four weeks to review and score the applications. The scores and recommendations will be compiled by the Foundation’s staff and submitted to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees for final approval.

**Award Distributions:** The Foundation will make scholarship payment at the beginning of each academic semester. Distributions will not be made until the Foundation receives all required documentation, including but not limited to: (1) certified proof of enrollment from the
institution, (2) confirmation that the recipient is enrolled in a program; and, (3) school transcripts. Checks are made directly to the financial administration office at the college or institution. No distribution will be made to any individual for any reason.

Continuing scholarship payments are made based on regular (quarter or semester) reviews. The scholarship recipient must provide the Foundation with an official college or university transcript at the end of each academic term (quarter or semester). Failure to maintain the above standards will result in the termination of the Scholarship.

Students must notify the Foundation of any additional educational or financial aid grants or awards immediately. In addition, the Foundation is to be notified if there is any change in the student’s financial support.

An Award may not be renewed beyond the customary time period required for the completion of a degree: two years for an associate degree and four years for a bachelor’s degree.

Acknowledgments: Communications of gratitude for this award from scholarship recipients can be sent to the Family of Ms. Audra Burger in care of the Community Foundation’s address.

Responsibility of Recipient: Each scholarship recipient is responsible for fulfilling requirements for admission to the college or university of choice. The scholarship recipient must enter a post-secondary institution of higher learning no later than the fall term following the selection and award; otherwise, they forfeit the award. No award shall be carried over beyond twelve months from the date of acceptance. Recipients not completing the full academic year must request the institution to reimburse the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama for any funds eligible for refund because of separation from the academic program.

Conditions: The Audra Burger Memorial Scholarship Guidelines are not a contract. No obligation or liability of any kind will be imposed upon a scholarship recipient; nor will the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, except as expressly stated in this document, assume any obligation or liability. These guidelines are subject to change; therefore, applicants should inquire if revised guidelines have been issued. Changes may impact the due date of the application documents. The Foundation respects the privacy and confidentiality of all personal information.

The Community Foundation will not; (1) accept applications that are presented after the due date; (2) contact students to locate missing documents such as letters of recommendation, (3) contact students to return the Letter of Acceptance form; or, (4) contact students to provide proof of enrollment in order to receive payment.

Created August 27, 2019