**Press Release**

**Canvas Credit Union Western CUNA Management School students turn their hard work into big accomplishments**

**Honors and High Honors awarded based on exceptional projects.**

LONE TREE, CO (February 18, 2021) — [Canvas Credit Union](https://www.canvas.org/) congratulates three of their own family members (employees) for going above and beyond in their participation and project achievements for [Western CUNA Management School](https://www.wcmspomona.org/). Canvas’ own Ryan Brown, AVP People & Culture; Crystal Rooney, Financial Analyst III; & Ben Metzger, Staff Attorney, were awarded Honors and High Honors as they completed over 100 hours of an in-depth analysis of Canvas Credit Union then applied academic concepts to real-life credit union experiences within their projects.

As these students continue to grow their credit union knowledge and establish strong professional networks, Canvas is thrilled to support their personal growth in our transformative industry. In the last five years, Canvas has had eight Canvas family members graduate from Western CUNA Management School with four currently enrolled and four more at the Madison, WI CUNA Management School. This program keeps Canvas family members at the forefront of trends, allowing Canvas to continue to be a leader in its communities, and be known for their people.

Western CUNA Management School students focused their project topics on an in-depth analysis of Canvas. Ben, Crystal, and Ryan interviewed Canvas’ leadership team to gain insights. They also leveraged Filene Institute research. As they shaped their projects, they were able to share back with the credit union suggestions and ideas about how the organization can continue to grow and get stronger.

Crystal Rooney earned Honors in her deep dive into the history and organizational structure of Canvas, while Ben Metzger chose to highlight the current state of political polarization in America and how that might affect credit unions—where he was awarded High Honors. Ryan Brown launched his research from an article written by Taylor Nelms at Filene Research Institute called ‘[The Case for Workplace Financial Well-being](https://filene.org/learn-something/reports/the-case-for-workplace-financial-well-being-the-view-from-credit-unions),’ which shared the idea that organizations can improve the financial wellness of their employees by helping them develop in their careers. By expanding upon this research and discovering new opportunities to implement at Canvas, he was awarded High Honors.

“My participation in WCMS has truly reshaped my understanding of Canvas and the broader credit union movement,” shared Ryan Brown, Canvas’ AVP People & Culture. “Although my current role is very focused on our vision pillar of being known for our people, WCMS has really provided me so many new perspectives.”

For more than 50 years, the Western CUNA Management School (WCMS) has helped credit union professionals keep pace with the challenges of the future. By providing powerful and up-to-date curriculum, they prepare credit union leaders with the depth and breadth they need to contribute to their credit union’s success and their own personal career goals.

Canvas is dedicated to helping family members grow into their careers, and participating in the Western Management CUNA School does just that! The Canvas leadership team looks forward to fostering more enrichment for their Canvas family members through CUNA Management Schools and other learning and development opportunities within the credit union movement.



*Ryan Brown, Canvas AVP People & Culture*



*Ben Metzger, Canvas Staff Attorney*



*Crystal Rooney, Financial Analyst III*

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

**About Canvas Credit Union**[**(canvas.org)**](https://canvas.org/)
Canvas Credit Union is a safe and insured financial institution with over $3 billion in assets and over 260,000 members. Canvas provides a full array of financial products and services, including savings, checking, loans, mortgages, and online and mobile options. Serving Colorado communities for more than 82 years, Canvas currently has 29 branches.

**About Western CUNA Management School (**[**wcmspomona.org**](https://www.wcmspomona.org/)**)**

WCMS serves credit unions in the 13 western states and is sponsored by the leagues and associations for those credit unions, including the Alaska Credit Union League, California Credit Union League, Credit Union Association of New Mexico, Hawaii Credit Union League, Montana Credit Union Network, Mountain West Credit Union Association, Nevada Credit Union League, Northwest Credit Union Association, and Utah Credit Union Association, in cooperation with Pomona College in Claremont, CA. Graduates who have developed their skills and knowledge at the school occupy positions of leadership and responsibility at some of the nation’s leading credit unions.

**Contact Information**
Tansley Stearns
Chief People & Strategy Officer
Canvas Credit Union
tansleys@canvas.org

Canvas Credit Union
9990 Park Meadows Drive
Lone Tree, CO 80124
United States of America