



CONTACT:
Savannah Cruz
813.644.7443
pr@bkncreative.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GTE FINANCIAL KICKS OFF 14TH ANNUAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TAMPA, FL, February 2025: GTE Financial is thrilled to announce applications are now open for the 14th Annual Student Scholarship Program. This year, the credit union will award \$3,000 scholarships to dedicated GTE student-members who demonstrate both academic excellence and active community involvement.

The scholarships are available to undergraduate students and trade school attendees, including high school seniors planning to pursue higher education and current college students. As part of the application process, students are encouraged to submit a 300-word essay that showcases their commitment to academics and community service.

"We are truly honored to support students who not only excel academically but also demonstrate a deep commitment to their communities," said Ashley Stimatz, Vice President and Chief of Staff to President and CEO. "This program is a reflection of our dedication to helping the next generation of leaders reach their full potential. By investing in these bright, driven individuals, we are helping to create a positive ripple effect that will benefit our community for years to come."

In addition, GTE Financial will continue to honor the late Co-Chair, David Pizzo, with a judge's choice award to celebrate his enduring legacy and positive impact on the Tampa Bay community.

Applications will be accepted from February through June, with winners announced in August. The scholarship selections will be made by an independent panel of community leaders, ensuring the integrity of the program.

To apply, visit gtefinancial.org/scholarships. For additional information, contact GTE Financial's Scholarship Team at scholarships@gtefinancial.org.

About GTE Financial

GTE Financial is a not-for-profit financial cooperative located throughout West Central Florida with \$2.9 billion in assets and 24 Community Financial Centers. Chartered in 1935, GTE Financial is the official credit union of the Tampa Bay Lightning and is locally owned and operated in the Tampa Bay area, serving more than 230,000 individuals and businesses. For more information on GTE Financial, visit gtefinancial.org.

For more information, interviews, or media requests, please call (813) 644-7443 or email Savannah Cruz at pr@bkncreative.com.

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