



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 14, 2021

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Shannon Hiller  
[hillers@ccculv.com](mailto:hillers@ccculv.com); 702-939-3006

## **2021 Smart Start Scholarship Honorees**

[LAS VEGAS, Nev.] – May 14, 2021 – In celebration of Clark County Credit Union’s (CCCU) 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, seven Smart Start Scholarships were awarded to qualifying students as part of CCCU’s ongoing effort to help members realize their financial goals and dreams through education. A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to seven students who met application requirements and were either graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled in a state-accredited college or university.

“Promoting education and higher learning is important to the credit union,” said Matt Kershaw, CCCU President and CEO. “Since this is a milestone year for the credit union, we wanted to increase the opportunities by including two ‘bonus’ scholarships to this year’s program to help even more of our members and their children.”

The Smart Start Scholarship Committee received a record number of qualified applicants this year and made its decisions based on the students’ GPA, volunteer/extracurricular activities and their essay response to the provided prompt, “How have you been able to maintain your educational goals during the pandemic and what adjustments will you make to reach your future goals and dreams?”

CCCU awarded the 2021 Smart Start Scholarships to the following students:

1. Alexis Carmen- University of Colorado, Boulder - Psychology
2. Alora Benitez- Pennsylvania State University - Digital Media
3. Cristina Paris- Nevada State College - Deaf Studies/Interpreting
4. Diego Vasquez- University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Accounting
5. Garvin Garcia- University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Psychology
6. Michelle Irish- Nevada State College - Biology
7. Tara Nelson- University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Criminal Justice

CCCU and its Board of Directors congratulate each student on being selected as one of the seven 2021 scholarship recipients. “Education and determination will help each student accomplish their goals and dreams, and we are pleased to be part of their efforts,” said Kershaw.

**-MORE-**

**About Clark County Credit Union**

Founded in 1951, CCCU is a not-for-profit financial institution serving over 47,000 members who are municipal employees (Clark County, City of Henderson, City of Las Vegas, and City of North Las Vegas), medical professionals, members of Nevada Public Radio (KNPR) and numerous select employer groups. CCCU has assets of \$1 billion and six branches throughout Southern Nevada. More information about CCCU can be found online at [www.ccculv.org](http://www.ccculv.org).

**###**