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**WFCU Credit Union Presents Regional Scripps Spelling Bee Champion with a \$2,500 Scholarship**

**Windsor, ON** – WFCU Credit Union has presented Giovanna Patcas of L.A. Desmarais Catholic Elementary School with a \$2,500 scholarship for her future post-secondary education. Giovanna was the champion of the 2020 Windsor-Essex County regional spelling bee sponsored by WFCU Credit Union and was to represent Windsor-Essex County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C, in May 2020.

This week, Giovanna received the unfortunate news that, due to the ongoing concerns about the spread of novel coronavirus and uncertainty around when public gatherings will be possible or advisable, the Scripps National Spelling Bee has been cancelled. This is the first time since World War II that the Scripps National Spelling Bee has been cancelled.



“Giovanna has dedicated hundreds of hours in preparing for this national competition. Although she will not be able to experience Bee Week in Washington, we are proud of her and truly support her in her academic future,” stated Eddie Francis, WFCU Credit Union President & CEO.

Among the spellers who were most looking forward to competing were students in the eighth grade – like Giovanna, who through the cancellation of this event, are missing out on this lifetime opportunity and milestone of competing in this renowned competition; advancing beyond the eighth grade next year, these students will become ineligible to participate in the spelling bee program.

Marty Gillis, Chair, WFCU Board of directors noted, “all of us at WFCU Credit Union are so proud of Giovanna and all that she has accomplished by winning spelling bees in her classroom, school and then at the regional level and wish her the best of luck as she enters high school in the Fall.”

In a note to spellers, families and sponsors, Scripps National Spelling Bee Executive Director Paige Kimble said:

*Our thoughts immediately go to our spellers and their families. The students have dedicated time and effort to their passion for learning. They should be proud of all they have accomplished by winning spelling bees at the classroom, school and regional level.*

*Nevertheless, our first priority has to be the health and well-being of our spellers and their families and the hundreds of staff and spectators that come together for Bee Week.*

*Our hearts go out to the spellers who won't get their final shot at winning because of the pandemic and the difficult decisions it is prompting us to make. They are now part of a widely expanding group of children and adults who are missing out on opportunities due to the coronavirus.*

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### **About WFCU Credit Union**

WFCU Credit Union has been recognized as a leading, progressive financial institution headquartered in Windsor and Essex County since 1941. Proudly serving Ontario residents, community organizations, small businesses, commercial entities and public institutions for over 77 years, WFCU Credit Union is the sixth largest credit union in Ontario, and twenty-fifth largest credit union in Canada, operating ten retail locations and one digital entity, Omnia Direct. Through these service channels, in combination with online and mobile banking, telephone banking and ATM services, WFCU Credit Union has become the financial institution of choice for 47,899 members across Ontario including 43,702 personal members in 19,588 households, 2,833 businesses and 1,364 organizations. Currently, WFCU Credit Union has \$4.852 billion in Managed Assets and Member Service Totals of \$6.7 billion. WFCU Credit Union membership is open to anyone who lives and/or works in Ontario. For more information on WFCU Credit Union please visit [wfcu.ca](http://wfcu.ca).

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