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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commonwealth Credit Union Gifts \$1 Million to Support Banking and Finance Program at ECU

RICHMOND, Ky. (April 20, 2023) — As fraud and cybercrimes targeting local financial institutions are on the rise across the country, the need for people in the financial industry who are capable of understanding the challenges of financial technology, financial forensics, and cybersecurity has never been more critical. To help address this need, Commonwealth Credit Union (CCU) has given Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) a \$1 million gift to support the Evans Banking and Financial Services program and the establishment of a new certificate program in Financial Technology and Cybercrime.

“I’m honored to announce our \$1 million gift that will help equip the next generation of graduates as they enter the workforce,” said Karen Harbin. “While this donation will help launch the Financial and Cybersecurity certification program, it’s also an investment in keeping our best and brightest right here in Kentucky as they begin their careers. I’ve been where these students are, and as a proud ECU Alumna, this opportunity is one that is near and dear to my heart.”

On April 12, Harbin joined ECU President Dr. David McFaddin and US Congressman Andy Barr to officially announce Commonwealth Credit Union’s gift. The announcement was made in the ECU Business and Technology Center Atrium. Harbin, McFaddin, and Barr spoke about the industry’s need for this type of education and their shared vision for what this certification program would encompass, which will be the first of its kind in the US.

“We are excited to announce this transformative gift from Commonwealth Credit Union,” said President McFaddin. “Their generous investment will make a difference for generations of students and provide talented graduates to meet the workforce needs of the financial sector. ECU is proud to collaborate with CCU and offer innovative solutions in this critical field of study.”

Additionally, in recognition of Commonwealth Credit Union’s gift, the Learning Commons at Eastern Kentucky University’s Stratton Building will be renamed the Commonwealth Credit Union Learning Lounge.

Established in 1951, Commonwealth Credit Union currently serves over 120,000 members. Anyone who lives, works, worships, goes to school, or volunteers in one of 25 eligible counties in Central Kentucky and the Louisville Metro Area can bank at Commonwealth Credit Union. Commonwealth Credit Union is the Official Credit Union of the University of Louisville. Insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Opportunity.

About ECU: Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) is a student-centered, comprehensive regional university dedicated to high-quality instruction, service and scholarship serving approximately 14,000 students.