



money's for TFCU Members worth

Volume 4 November 2011

the credit union difference

credit union vs. bank

understanding
how they differ

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a credit union and a bank? Here are some of the primary differences between the two.

- Credit unions are not-for-profit cooperatives owned by their members, and every member has equal ownership. Banks are for-profit, generally family-owned or publicly traded stockholder-owned companies.

- Credit unions can, and do, generate earnings (net income). Much of this money is returned to its members in the form of lower loan rates, higher dividends, fewer fees and better service. Banks make a majority of their money on fee income. Because credit unions are member-owned cooperatives, they don't have to generate profits to appease stockholders.

- Credit unions are run by unpaid volunteer boards and committees. Members elect, rather than hire, the Board of Directors, and the Board represents credit union members in making decisions and upholding policies. Members of a bank Board of Directors receive compensation for their positions.

- Credit unions have their own federally backed share insurance program. The share insurance fund is

strong and has never needed a taxpayer bailout. Credit union deposits are backed by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund up to \$250,000.

- Each credit union member has the opportunity to vote in the annual election of board members. There is no election process for banks, and bank customers do not have a voice.

For more information about the Credit Union Difference visit www.TinkerFCU.org. ▲




savings bond changes

Planning to buy U.S. Savings Bonds? If so, these recent changes could affect you. Paper savings bonds will no longer be sold at financial institutions after December 31, 2011. TFCU will no longer sell savings bonds after December 23, 2011.

In 2012, you will need to purchase electronic bonds online through TreasuryDirect.

Existing paper bonds are still valid and will earn interest for 30 years from the issue date, or until redeemed.

Sign up for a TreasuryDirect account at www.treasurydirect.gov. You can buy and manage saving bonds safely and electronically, 24 hours a day.


For more information about these changes visit www.TinkerFCU.org. 



TFCU green vehicle loans


Green for your pocket and the planet!

How can you help the planet and save money at the same time? Get a low-rate auto loan from TFCU for a Green Vehicle. Vehicles with a SmartWay or SmartWay Elite designation qualify for a loan rate reduction.

To find out which vehicles qualify, go to epa.gov/greenvehicles. You can also check out our vehicle loan rates at www.TinkerFCU.org. 

\$10 for every new referral give the gift of membership

It's the season for giving, so here is a great gift-giving idea for all of our TFCU members. Give the gift of TFCU membership to your family and friends this year. Your family members are automatically eligible to join. For every family member or friend you get to join TFCU, we will deposit \$10 into your savings account and \$10 into the savings account of the new member you refer.

So, during the holidays (Nov. 1 – Dec. 31), tell everyone why you trust TFCU with your money, and encourage them to find out for themselves by becoming a member. Referral coupons are in the branches and at www.TinkerFCU.org. You will also find one with your statement in December. This is another way TFCU is saying thank you. 

Referred friend/family member must return a coupon or fill one out when opening new account. Additional coupons available in TFCU branches during promotion. The \$10 gifts will be deposited into the referring member's and new member's Share (Savings) Account at account opening. May be reported as taxable income. All accounts subject to approval by TFCU and all membership qualification guidelines apply. Offer good 11/1/2011 – 12/31/2011. No limit to the number of referrals a member may make during the promotion. Accounts on which a TFCU employee or volunteer is listed as a Primary or Joint owner are not eligible to receive the \$10 referral; however, eligible individuals they refer may receive \$10.



how to prepare for rising higher education costs

Across the country, states are offering contests or incentives to focus attention on tax-advantaged Section 529 College Savings Plans. Specialized Investment Services, a division of Tinker Federal Credit Union, just completed their annual scholarship contest. It was designed to spur awareness of the importance of saving for a higher education.

There are compelling reasons for parents and grandparents to consider saving early for a child's college education. According to the College Board, college costs have been racing ahead at rates above 6 percent annually.

*Securities are offered through **RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**, member FINRA/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not insured by NCUA or any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of the credit union, are not guaranteed by the credit union or any affiliated entity, and are subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal. Tinker Federal Credit Union and Specialized Investment Services are independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.*

This is far ahead of official inflation figures. Yet, the most recent study shows that while an overwhelming number of parents expect their children to pursue higher education, nearly 40 percent are not saving for it. Moreover, of those who are, only 32 percent are using a tax-advantage savings plan, according to the student loan company, Sallie Mae.

The 529 plans include generous contribution ceilings. They vary from state to state, but most are \$300,000 or higher. There may be a state tax break involved too, if you invest in your home state's 529 plan. Similar plans offered by other states are not likely to provide the same tax benefits. Contributions, which grow tax-free, remain the property of the account owner and may have little impact on scholarship and financial aid possibilities. Donors may combine up to five years' worth of gift tax exclusions (which, for 2011, is \$13,000) for a one-time contribution of \$65,000. Qualified withdrawals for education purposes are free from federal income tax and, usually, from state income taxes.

You don't have to write a brief essay or draw a picture to explore the advantages of planning ahead for college costs. A financial advisor from Specialized Investment Services will be happy to discuss 529 plans or any other college savings plan that suits you best. Call (405) 737-0006 or 1-800-456-4828 ext. 2575 for assistance with college savings plans.

prepaid VISA

gift cards

make great gifts

Want to do your holiday shopping at one place and ensure those on your gift list get exactly what they want? TFCU offers you a gift-giving alternative to the traditional wrapped present that can do just that—a VISA Gift Card. It can be used for purchases at merchants where VISA cards are accepted, which means your loved ones have the freedom to get what they truly want.

Get your shopping done early with a prepaid VISA Gift Card.

So, avoid the malls and do your shopping in one easy visit to your nearest TFCU full-service branch. You can get a card for as low as \$20, up to a maximum of \$500.

For more information on VISA Gift Cards, visit www.TinkerFCU.org, or stop by any of our 23 full-service branches. ▲



free annual credit report

TFCU recommends you take full advantage of the free annual credit report you can receive from each of the three major credit bureaus. With identity theft on the rise, knowing what is being reported under your name is important.

Once you receive your free credit report, you can call BALANCE—a financial fitness program available to our members at no cost—at 1-888-456-2227, and one of their certified credit report review specialists will review it with you and answer any questions you have. They can also give you advice on how to handle any inaccuracies that might be in your report.

Don't wait until you become a victim of fraudulent activity to use this free service.

Online:

www.annualcreditreport.com

By phone:

1-877-322-8228

By mail:

Annual Credit Report Request Service
P.O. Box 105283
Atlanta, GA 30348-5283

locations, numbers & hours

- Ada**
1620 Lonnie Abbott Industrial Blvd.
- Bethany**
6750 N.W. 39th
- Edmond**
1401 N. Kelly
- Edmond, East**
3141 S. Bryant
- Enid**
801 S. Oakwood
- Midwest City**
6501 Tinker Diagonal
- Midwest City, East**
1401 S. Post Road
- Moore**
400 S.W. 6th
- Norman, East**
1131 12th Ave., N.E.
- Norman, West**
301 36th Ave., N.W.
- Oklahoma City, Metro Tech**
1800 Springlake Drive, Suite 200
Lobby Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 3:30
- Oklahoma City, Northeast**
1177 N.E. 23rd
- Oklahoma City, Northwest**
4626 N.W. 39th
- Oklahoma City, Southwest**
9601 S. Pennsylvania
- Oklahoma City, Southwest Drive-Thru**
1200 S.W. 89th
- Seminole**
2221 N. Milt Phillips Blvd.
Lobby & Drive-Thru Hours
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 5:00
Friday 9:00 - 6:00
Closed Saturday

- Shawnee**
3923 N. Harrison
- Stillwater**
5101 W. 6th
- Tinker AFB, Area A**
Bldg. 420
Lobby Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:45 - 4:30
Drive-Thru Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:00 - 5:00
- Tinker AFB, Area C-1 North**
Bldg. 3001 Post Y-92
Lobby Hours:
Monday - Friday 6:45 - 4:30
- Tinker AFB, Area C-2 South**
Bldg. 3001 Post Y-32
Lobby Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:00
- Tulsa**
8321 E. 61st
- Vance Air Force Base**
234 Fields Street
Lobby Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 5:00
Friday 8:00 - 5:00
Drive-Thru Window Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 5:00
Friday 8:00 - 5:00
Closed for lunch 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- Yukon**
11209 W. Reno
- Specialized Investment Services**
6501 Tinker Diagonal, MWC
(405) 737-0006
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 - 5:00

tfcu express electronic service centers

- Choctaw Express**
14453 N.E. 23rd
- Enid Express**
215 W. Owen K. Garriott
- Oklahoma City Express, Southwest**
1200 S.W. 89th
- Oklahoma City Express, West**
4140 W. I-40

- Standard Lobby Hours:**
Monday - Thursday 9:00-5:00
Friday 9:00-6:00
Saturday 9:00-noon
- Standard Drive-Thru Hours:**
Monday - Thursday 8:00-6:00
Friday 8:00-6:30
Saturday 8:00-noon

credit union service centers

For a complete list of Credit Union Service Center locations, visit www.tinkerfcu.org, and click on **Locations, Numbers & Hours**.



P.O. Box 45750, Tinker AFB, 73145
(405) 732-0324 OKC
(918) 592-0324 Tulsa
(405) 707-7440 Stillwater
(580) 310-0324 Ada
(580) 233-3330 Enid
1-800-456-4828
www.tinkerfcu.org



Federally insured by NCUA