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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarasota County Education Foundation to name two Suncoast Credit Union Scholars in 2019

Sarasota, Fla. (Dec. 19, 2018) -- The Suncoast Schools Credit Union Foundation is partnering with the Education Foundation of Sarasota County to offer \$2,000 scholarship awards to two Sarasota County high school graduates in the class of 2019 as part of the \$116,000 statewide investment in scholarships by the Tampa-based credit union's foundation.

Applications opened in December and are available online at:
<https://launchyourplan.com/suncoast-credit-union-scholarship/>

The application deadline is March 1, 2019. The scholarship is open to high school seniors in Sarasota County who are planning to attend a four- or two-year college or university or a technical/vocational school in Florida and can demonstrate financial need. Students must begin postsecondary school in the 2019-20 academic year and use scholarship funds for tuition, institution fees and other direct course-related expenses.

This year's Suncoast Credit Union Scholars program represents a continued philosophy of the foundation to support education initiatives and the well-being and potential of children. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has contributed more than \$22 million, including more than 600 student scholarships valued at nearly \$1 million.

"We believe the best way we can build better communities is by investing in education and health-related initiatives for children," said Cindy Helton, executive director of the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation. "Through the Suncoast Credit Union Scholars program, we have the opportunity to invest in individual human potential, which is particularly rewarding."

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About the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF):

The CFEF is the membership organization for Florida's school district-wide local education foundations. Established in 1987, the CFEF maximizes the individual collective strength of Florida local education foundations to support local partners and schools. The CFEF has 64

member foundations with 1,100 business and community leaders serving as volunteer board members. Collectively, they raise more than \$64 million annually to support students, teachers and schools through a variety of programs. The CFEF has provided nearly \$46.5 million to local education foundations since 2001 through various private- and public-sector partnerships, including the State of Florida School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program.

About the Education Foundation of Sarasota County

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County is an independent partner working to advance philanthropic support for Sarasota County Schools. Its mission is to enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching and inspire innovation in education. Guided by the belief that education changes lives, the Education Foundation strives to match each donor's passion with high-impact projects created to ensure students graduate with purpose and are prepared for a postsecondary pathway. The Education Foundation of Sarasota County and its philanthropic investors are champions for students, teachers and schools. For more information on how to be a champion for education, visit EdFoundationSRQ.org.