

Cooperative CONNECTION

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

Progress through partnership



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The Future of Credit Unions Is Brighter Than Ever

Young professionals are stepping up to lead with focus, courage, and collaboration

Nearly 200 young professionals gathered earlier this month at CCUA's 3rd annual Young Professionals Summit — and what took place was more than a conference. It was a clear signal that the credit union movement's future is in strong, capable hands.

This next generation of leaders showed up differently. Laptops stayed closed, phones stayed tucked away, and engagement was front and center. Attendees leaned in, asked bold questions, and collaborated with one another in a way that left no doubt: they're ready to shape what's next.

Credit unions thrive because of collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to members. At the Summit, it was evident these values are alive and well — and this generation of leaders is ready to take them even further.

Take a deeper look at how these young professionals are redefining leadership and shaping the future of credit unions—read the full blog.

[Read the Full Blog by Melissa Pomeroy, CCUA's EVP & COO](#)



Focusing on What, and Who is Next

Cooperative Education launched *Emerging Leaders*, a three-month program designed to build skills and connections for rising professionals, culminating at the APEX convention. The first class is underway, offering participants a powerful path for leadership development. Alongside this, the newly reimagined *Developing Great Managers* program is



preparing future leaders and staff for future supervisory and management roles.

[Get involved in upcoming development programs](#)



I'm a First-Time Manager—Now What?

Stepping into a management role comes with exciting opportunities and new challenges. Our partners at Robert Half highlight key strategies for first-time managers: build strong relationships, avoid unnecessary changes, seek guidance from a mentor, invest in management training, and lead in the way you once hoped to be led. With a focus on trust, curiosity, and continuous learning, these tips provide a roadmap for effective and confident leadership.



[Read the article from Robert Half on new manager success](#)



Tomorrow's Credit Union Leaders Today

The **4th Annual Young Professionals Summit** took place this August at Bentley University, bringing together **one of the largest gatherings of emerging credit union leaders in the country**. Attendees included representatives from CCUA credit unions, the Maine Credit Union League and the Credit Union League of Connecticut, and even a participant traveling all the way from Texas. With inspiring keynotes, CEO “Ask Me Anything” panels, peer roundtables, and an innovative Think Tank session, the Summit underscored the importance of developing talent across the cooperative system.

For many, the event set a new benchmark. **Catherine Comerford, AVP of Community & Business Development at Workers Credit Union**, shared that while she arrived with no expectations, the inspiring speakers, empowering all-women CEO panel, and interactive discussions quickly turned into “a benchmark for future events.” **Andrew Gabriel, SVP & Chief Operating Officer at Direct Federal Credit Union**,

noted the Summit “delivered more value than ever before,” highlighting how attendee questions and networking fostered collaboration that continues beyond the event.

The Think Tank sparked bold ideas for the industry’s future—from enhanced member experience apps to a “Credit Union Coachella”—showing how **creative energy from young professionals is shaping what’s next**. Keep an eye out for details on the 2026 Young Professionals Summit, and **explore opportunities to join the Young Professionals Network** www.ccua.org/networks.

Learn more about the Young Professionals Network



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