

It is my honor to nominate Brandi McKay-Berry for the CCUA Young Professional of the Year Award.

Brandi exemplifies the spirit of the CCUA Young Professional of the Year through her exceptional leadership, commitment to community service, and dedication to strengthening the communities she serves. In every role throughout her career, she has consistently demonstrated a passion for helping others, building meaningful partnerships, and creating positive change.

As Community Engagement Specialist at Service Credit Union since 2024, Brandi is an essential part of not only the Service CU team but also the many communities the credit union serves. She is responsible for developing and executing the credit union's sponsorship programs and charitable community contributions while cultivating strong relationships with community leaders and organizations.

Brandi plays a key role in coordinating and implementing a wide range of impactful community initiatives at Service Credit Union throughout the year. These include large-scale efforts such as Stay Warm With Service, which provides jackets and other cold-weather essentials to neighbors in need, and our Project Elf program, through which we donate holiday gifts to children across the state while supporting independently owned local toy stores.

Brandi serves as the lead point of contact for community giving initiatives across more than 30 branches, and branch employees rely on her to ensure every event and donation effort runs smoothly and effectively. She is responsible for coordinating our annual Service Month program, which offers employees dozens of volunteer opportunities across the communities we serve; our Adopt a Nonprofit program, in which each U.S. branch selects a local nonprofit organization to support; and our monthly branch drives, which allow branches to choose nonprofits for members to support through in-kind donations. These initiatives empower our branches and employees to make a meaningful impact in their communities, and Brandi leads each one with exceptional organization, compassion, and dedication.

Whether organizing large-scale charitable efforts, managing community partnerships, or serving as a welcoming face at dozens of community events each year, Brandi represents Service Credit Union with professionalism, enthusiasm, and a genuine commitment to service. Her ability to connect people and organizations has helped strengthen the credit union's reputation as a trusted community partner.

Brandi's dedication to community engagement has been evident throughout her career. Prior to joining Service Credit Union in March 2024, she served as a Community Relations

Coordinator at Bangor Savings Bank, where she transitioned to the community team after several years as an Assistant Branch Manager. In that role, she further developed her expertise in relationship-building, community outreach and philanthropic programming.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Brandi is deeply involved in civic and volunteer leadership. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, an organization dedicated to helping local residents improve their economic stability and overall well-being through education, advocacy and coordinated support programs. Through her board service, Brandi helps advance initiatives that empower individuals and families to achieve greater financial and social independence.

For the past two years, Brandi has served on the planning committee for CCUA NH's Make-A-Wish holiday event. She is also a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Portsmouth, where she actively supports service initiatives that improve the lives of others throughout the community. Her commitment to Rotary's mission was recently recognized with her designation as a Paul Harris Fellow, one of Rotary International's highest honors. The Paul Harris Fellow Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication to service, leadership, and Rotary's guiding principle of "Service Above Self." This recognition reflects Brandi's unwavering commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others and her reputation as a trusted and respected community leader.

Brandi is also a longtime supporter of the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth, where she was also previously an Ambassador, serving as a vital link between the Chamber, its members, and the broader community. Through this role, she helped foster growth and visibility for local businesses while strengthening the region's economic vitality.

Brandi demonstrates a commitment to personal and professional growth. Seeking to deepen her understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the Seacoast region, she applied for and was selected to participate in the prestigious Leadership Seacoast program. Through months of intensive learning and engagement focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging, Brandi gained valuable insight into the region's most pressing issues and the leaders working to address them. She proudly graduated as a member of the Leadership Seacoast Class of 2024.

What sets Brandi apart is not only her impressive record of achievement but also the energy, compassion, and authenticity she brings to every endeavor. She consistently goes above and beyond to support others, build relationships, and create opportunities for positive change. Whether leading charitable initiatives, serving on nonprofit boards, mentoring community partnerships, or volunteering her time, Brandi embodies the credit union philosophy of people helping people.

Through her professional accomplishments, volunteer leadership, and demonstrated commitment to service, Brandi has made a significant and lasting impact on her organization and community. She is an outstanding representative of the next generation of credit union leaders and is highly deserving of recognition as the CCUA Young Professional of the Year.