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**Hayden Receives “Best and Brightest” Recognition from Junior Achievement**

ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN (May 30, 2008) - Lorie Hayden, Branch Manager at United Federal Credit Union’s Benton Harbor (MI) branch, was recognized as one of Michiana’s Best and Brightest at Junior Achievement’s annual event which was held at the South Bend (IN) Century Center on April 14th. The keynote speaker at the event was Bill Rancic, the original “Apprentice” on Donald Trump’s television program of the same name.

Hayden was nominated for the honor by Mike Nicholas, Vice President of Human Resources at the credit union. “Lorie stands out in our organization as one who is committed to helping our communities be the best that they can be. She is actively involved as a volunteer in many community organizations including Junior Achievement, the Berrien County (MI) Youth Fair, 4-H, and the Old Mill Festival 5K Challenge.”

“An important part of our corporate culture includes an expectation that our team will not only work in the communities that we serve, but they will contribute to the community through active participation in those organizations and events that create value for its citizens,” continued Gary Easterling, President and CEO for United Federal Credit Union. “Lorie personifies that commitment in a very tangible as demonstrated by her deep and long-standing service in our community. We are proud to have Lorie as a member of Team United.”

In addition to Hayden's many professional achievements, she has continuously pursued opportunities to improve her knowledge base as evidenced by completion of her Associate Degree in Applied Science and Bachelor of Business Management degree. She also holds many certifications, including Basic Reserve Officer through the Training Academy of Berrien County – Horse Division Certification, Consumer Lending Certification, Credit Union Accounting Certification, Loan Officer Certification, and Advanced Lending Certification.

The "Michiana's Best and Brightest" awards are based upon outstanding professional accomplishments, community involvement, and leadership. Hayden was one of four finalists in the "Banking and Financial Services" category.

Hayden has been part of the United team for the past seven years where her career began in the Collections Department and working her way to the branch manager position that she holds today.

United Federal Credit Union has served its members since 1949 by helping them to build a sound financial future. Presently UFCU consists of more than 80,000 member/owners worldwide, and manages assets in excess of \$766,000,000. Its corporate offices and main branch are located in St. Joseph, Michigan with additional Michigan branches located in Buchanan, Holland, Niles, Berrien Springs, Stevensville and Benton Harbor. In addition to our Marion location, branches are located in Ft. Smith AR, Van Buren AR, Gwinner, ND, and Statesville NC, and Fletcher, NC. For more information about United Federal Credit Union, please call toll-free at 1-888-982-1400, or visit the credit union's web site at [www.unitedfcu.com](http://www.unitedfcu.com).

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