



Alliance One – A Smart Network

Your financial institution has made the wise decision to let you keep some of your money. **How?** By giving you access to more ATMs and fewer fees. Alliance One, founded in 1998, is a nationwide cooperative group of credit unions, community banks and thrifts that have joined forces to let their cardholders access each others' ATMs all over America without having to pay foreign ATM fees. That cooperative spirit not only gives you more convenient ATMs to choose from, it also leaves that extra \$2.00 where it should be – in your account.

Look for the blue and white Alliance One logo on ATMs or use our ATM locator to find a convenient ATM nearby.

Not all Alliance One ATMs may be accessible to every cardholder. Be sure to match a network logo (i.e. STAR, NYCE, Plus) on the back of the ATM card with a logo on the ATM. Also, fees assessed by your financial institution to access an ATM may still apply. For questions about your ATM card, participating ATM networks and ATM surcharges, contact the credit union.

Paying for College

Student Loan Application To-Do List

By Patrick McTee

The process of applying for student loans can seem bewildering for parents and college-bound students, but it all comes down to four manageable steps:

1. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)

The FAFSA is the first step, as it is the required application for almost all types of federal, state, and institutional aid. Students who are considering several schools may list up to six choices on the FAFSA application, allowing them to compare all financial aid offers in the decision making process.

It is important to note that the FAFSA cannot be filed before January 1 of the first year of the academic year (for example Jan. 1, 2004 for the 2004-2005 school year).

Instead of filling out a traditional paper FAFSA application, it is highly recommended that students file online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Online filing greatly decreases processing time and the online edit checks eliminate most errors that occur in paper filings. PIN numbers are available from this site for students and parents to electronically sign the FAFSA, eliminating the need to mail in forms.

It's very important to meet schools' priority deadlines for FAFSA completion, since funding is often limited and there may be fewer available funds after the priority date. For traditional schools, most priority dates range from February 15-April 1.

Parents should have the prior year's tax returns completed before the FAFSA is submitted. (If you owe money to Uncle Sam, you don't have to pay until April 15, even if your tax return is completed by Feb. 15.)

2. SCHOOL SENDS FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER TO STUDENT

Most schools start sending financial aid award letters to students on or before April 1 for those who have filled out

the FAFSA. Award letters to those who file the FAFSA after April 1 are sent after the school receives the student's application. Schools generally have a deadline for students to accept or decline the award, so be sure to respond on time.



3. STUDENT SIGNS PROMISSORY NOTE (IF NEEDED FOR LOANS)

If a student has accepted a student loan as part of their financial aid package, he or she will have to sign a promissory note for the loan. The student can contract Interational Harvester Employee Credit Union to obtain a Master Promissory Note, pre-printed with Interational Harvester Employee Credit Union's lender code. The student then just needs to return the MPN to their college or university.

4. FUNDS ARE DISBURSED THROUGH THE SCHOOL

Almost all federal, state and institutional grants, scholarships, and loans are disbursed through schools near the start of each term. Funds will be applied first to what you owe the school and any remaining funds are given to you for books, supplies, and other educational expenses. Some schools disburse funds as early as 10 days before the start of the academic term while others may release them a few days or weeks after the term starts. Be sure to check with your school to know what its policy is.

Additional information regarding loans and application processes may be found at www.nelnet.net.

All throughout the months of October and November 2003, International Harvester Employee Credit Union raised money for A Special Wish Foundation through our treasure chest gift certificate raffle. We were able to raise over \$1000, and presented the check to the Springfield North Chapter of A Special Wish Foundation in the beginning of January. Pictured above at the check presentation are Julie Blankenship, a credit union Loan Department employee; Yale Kline, Director of ASW at North High School; and Amanda Thomas, Director of Marketing/Business Development at the credit union. Thank you to all who donated this year! This money will go to granting a local child's wish, and we owe this all to you, our valued members who actively participated in this year's fundraiser.



10 Tips to Preserve Your Credit Rating

1. Pay all of your bills on time — *even if it is just the minimum payment.*
2. Pay down your credit cards — keep each of them below 50% of the total limit.
3. Don't have a lot of credit cards.
4. When you pay off a card and no longer use it, have the creditor advise the credit bureau the account was "closed at consumer request."
5. Close those old accounts that you are not using.
6. Keep statements that show you've closed an account and have a zero balance.
7. If you are refused a loan, you're entitled to a free copy of your credit report.
8. Don't make too many credit requests in a short amount of time. This can have a negative impact on your credit rating.
9. If you asked for corrections to be made to your credit report, order a new copy to make sure they were made.
10. Watch out for companies that offer to fix your credit record — *you can do it yourself.*



Never Pay Too Much for a Car Again!

Thousands of auto buyers are faced with the same dilemma each year – "Do I take the rebate or the 0% dealer financing?" But don't get caught up when you hear 0% financing or other specials without doing a bit of research first.

In actuality, the 0% financing offered by several of the major auto manufacturers is usually only offered to "qualified buyers." For example, the small print on one auto manufacturer's television ads says that only buyers with Tier 1 and Tier 2 credit ratings qualify for the best rate. And even if you do happen to be eligible for the 0% financing, it is often only available on certain models and for terms on loans from 12-36 months. In another auto manufacturer's advertisements, the key language is "length of contract limited."

A closer look reveals that these offers may not be to your benefit. As you can see in the example, a \$25,000 vehicle with a \$3,000 rebate financed at the credit union's rate of 4.00% for 4 years (or 48 months) will eventually save you \$1156.51 over the life of the loan if you take the rebate instead of the 0% dealer financing. Moreover, if you were to pay your loan off earlier, in 3 years for example, that would save you \$460.49 more in addition to the money saved over the 4-year loan.*

Also, before you sign on the dotted line, see if there are any charges you don't understand. Is there a prepayment penalty or application fee? Not only do we not charge either of those fees, we even offer convenient payment options such as payroll deduction. It may also put your mind at ease to know that the title of your new or used car stays at the credit union when you finance with us, unlike many large banks that keep the titles in other cities. This often causes long and unnecessary delays in releasing the title after the vehicle is paid off because it takes awhile to get the lien cancelled.

Very often, you'll be given the choice between low-rate dealer financing and a cash-back rebate. Taking the rebate, applying it to the vehicle's purchase price and financing the balance with your credit union vehicle loan is usually your best deal – even when the dealer's rate is much lower than our rate. So before you accept any dealer's financing offer, be sure to check with your credit union first!

****To get to our loan calculator, go to our website at www.ihecu.com and click on "Financial Calculators" and then "Credit Union rate vs. Dealer Rebate calculator." Plunk in your numbers, and see how much money we could save you on your next vehicle purchase!***

Rate vs. Rebate Calculator

Amount to finance:	<input type="text" value="25000"/>
Rebate amount:	<input type="text" value="3000"/>
Dealer rate (%):	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Credit union rate (%):	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Length of dealer loan (years):	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Length of credit union loan (years):	<input type="text" value="4"/>
<input type="button" value="Calculate"/>	
Monthly payment to dealer:	<input type="text" value="333.33"/>
Monthly payment to credit union:	<input type="text" value="294.66"/>

Good news! The credit union loan ó plus rebate ó will save you \$540.98 over the course of the loan.

Youth Make a Difference at Credit Unions

Visit International Harvester Employee Credit Union the week of April 18-24 and help us shine the spotlight on youth during National Credit Union Youth Week. International Harvester Employee Credit Union is committed to helping young people build a strong foundation for making financial decisions. Stop by our lobby during that week for fun catered just to our youth members!

Also, kids, watch for your invitations in the mail to our 2nd Annual Youth Week pizza party, which will be held on Tuesday, April 20th, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Children and

their parents are invited to attend and take part in fun activities such as a life-sized Monopoly game, free pizza and root beer floats, mystery, magic and loads of fun!

And remember, International Harvester Employee Credit Union membership is open to all your family members, so bring them along for the fun!

For more information, please contact Amanda Thomas at 937-390-1800 x 131.



We hope to see you there!

PRIVACY NOTICE

International Harvester Employee Credit Union, Inc. is committed to making available financial products and services that will enable its members to meet their financial needs and obtain their financial goals. Protecting personal information and using it in a manner consistent with member expectations is a high priority for everyone associated with IHECU. International Harvester Employee Credit Union members also have a responsibility to safeguard their financial information.

To ensure that members can rely upon the quality of products and services we make available, International Harvester Employee Credit Union stands behind the following:

International Harvester Employee Credit Union will collect only the personal information that is necessary to conduct its business. International Harvester Employee Credit Union will collect only that information which is necessary to provide competitive financial products and services and no more.


International Harvester Employee Credit Union will protect the personal information of its members. International Harvester Employee Credit Union will maintain strong security controls to ensure that member information in our files and computers is protected. Where appropriate, we will use security coding techniques to protect against unauthorized access to personal records, ensure accuracy and integrity of communications and transactions, and protect member confidentiality.

International Harvester Employee Credit Union members will always have access to their information to ensure its accuracy. International Harvester Credit Union members will always have the opportunity to review their information and make necessary changes to ensure that our records are complete and accurate.

International Harvester Employee Credit Union will only share information when necessary to administer products and services we provide, when required to do so by the government, or when we partner with other businesses to offer a broader array of products and services.

International Harvester Employee Credit Union will partner only with businesses that follow strict confidentiality requirements and offer products designed to enhance the economic well being of its members. The businesses we select will be required to follow strict confidentiality requirements. Under no circumstances will we authorize these firms to charge your account without your express consent, and we will not sell member information to telemarketing firms.

International Harvester Employee Credit Union will provide all members a choice in how their information is used. International Harvester Employee Credit Union members may elect not to have their information shared with the credit union's business partners. We will tell our members how to exercise their choice, and we will take all reasonable steps to make sure their requests are followed. At least once a year, we will remind our members of their right to choose.

Dividend 	SAVINGS RATES AS OF MARCH 9, 2004	ANNUAL DIVIDEND RATE	ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD (APY)
Regular Share Savings Account, Earnie the Early Bird (Youth Savings)		.80%	.80% APY
Christmas Club Share Savings Account		.74%	.75% APY
Money Market Share Savings Account	\$1000 - \$4,999.99	1.04%	1.05% APY
\$5,000 & over		1.24%	1.25% APY
Share Draft Checking Account		.74%	.75% APY
Share Certificates			
6 month certificate		1.14%	1.15% APY
12 month certificate		1.39%	1.40% APY
18 month certificate		2.03%	2.05% APY
24 month certificate		2.57%	2.60% APY
30 month certificate		3.29%	3.35% APY
36 month certificate		3.44%	3.50% APY
48 month certificate		3.78%	3.85% APY
60 month certificate		3.83%	3.90% APY

For more information about rates and fees contact the credit union at (937) 390-1800 or 1-(800) 576-4428. We may offer different rates in the future.



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LOAN RATES *As of MARCH 9, 2004*

Rates as low as

New Autos, Trucks, Vans, Boats, RVs and Motorcycles

24 - 48 months	3.75% APR
60 months	4.25% APR
72 months	4.50% APR

Used Autos, Trucks, Vans, Boats, RVs and Motorcycles

24 - 48 months	4.00% APR
60 months	4.50% APR
72 months	4.75% APR

Unsecured Loans

\$500 - \$1,499	10.75% APR
\$1,500 & over	7.90% APR

First Mortgages (Adjustable Rate, Owner Occupied)

3.25% APR	up to 360 months (1 year adjustable)
4.25% APR	up to 360 months (3 year adjustable)

First Mortgages (Fixed Rate, Owner Occupied)

4.75% APR	up to 180 months (15 years)
5.25% APR	up to 240 months (20 years)
5.50% APR	up to 360 months (30 years)

First Mortgages (Adjustable Rate, Investment Property, Lots, Vacant Land)

5.25% APR	up to 360 months (1 year adjustable)
6.25% APR	up to 360 months (3 year adjustable)

Second Mortgages (Fixed Rate)

4.50% APR	up to 60 months (Up to 80% Loan-to-Value)
5.00% APR	up to 120 months (Up to 80% Loan-to-Value)
5.50% APR	up to 180 months (Up to 80% Loan-to-Value)

Home Equity Lines of Credit (Adjustable Rate)

2.50% APR	up to 180 months (Up to 80% Loan-to-Value)
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Visa Classic Credit Card

10.9% APR

Visa Platinum Credit Card

7.9% APR

Share Secured Loans

5.00% APR	up to 36 months (\$1,000 & over)
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Share Certificate Loans

2.00% APR above Certificate rate

**Rates subject to change. The actual rate and payment amount will reflect a members' individual circumstance and credit score and may be higher than the rates above.*

Restrictions may apply. Contact the Credit Union for details.

The Credit Union will be

CLOSED:

**Friday, April 9th
GOOD FRIDAY**

**Monday, May 31st
MEMORIAL DAY**

**Monday, July 5th
INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED**

Remember... STAR® ATM Machines, Anytime Info-Line, Virtual Branch® Home Banking and PayIT® are available 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week for your convenience. Use them for your simple transactions during the holidays.



INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER EMPLOYEE CREDIT UNION, INC.

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Anytime Info-Line 1-800-261-2188

World Wide Web Address:
www.ihecu.com

Office Hours
Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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