



Black History Month: Honoring Legacy, Empowering Financial Futures

Black History Month is about resilience, innovation and community. These are the same values that have long guided credit unions. It is an opportunity to look forward to consider how we can help build a more equitable and inclusive future, especially when it comes to financial opportunities. At VSU FCU we are empowering financial futures that start with knowledge and access. It grows through opportunity and support. It lasts when individuals feel confident in their ability to build wealth and plan for the future.

Black history is rich with examples of perseverance in the face of systemic barriers particularly in access to financial services and education. Despite these challenges, our communities have consistently built, sustained and reinvested in their neighborhoods through entrepreneurship, mutual aid and cooperative economics.

In fact, the credit union movement itself is rooted in similar principles; people coming together to support one another, pool resources and create financial pathways that might not otherwise exist. This shared legacy reminds us that financial institutions can and should be forces for empowerment.

As a community focused financial credit union our responsibility goes beyond providing accounts and loans. We exist to serve people, meet them where they are and help them move forward with confidence. Financial inclusion means:

- Providing access to fair and affordable financial products
- Offering education that empowers informed decision-making
- Building trust through transparency and personal service
- Supporting individuals and families at every stage of life

For many communities trust in financial institutions has not always been a given. That makes our role even more important. We must continue to listen, learn and lead with empathy. At VSU FCU we strive to:

- Offer financial education that is practical, relatable and judgement free
- Create an environment where every member feels seen, respected and valued

These efforts are not limited to one month. Black History Month simply gives us space to pause and recommit-to ensure our actions align with our values all year long.

As CEO, I am proud of the work we do-but I also recognize that there is always more to learn and more to improve. Progress requires intention, partnership and accountability. This February, we honor the legacy. And together, we continue the work of empowering financial futures for all.

If you are a member, thank you for trusting us as your financial partner. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to learn more about how our credit union can support your goals, not just financially, but personally and within the community. When communities thrive, we all move forward.

If you're enjoying my blogs, let me hear from you! Send an email to: info@vsufcu.org.