



For Immediate Release

Isaac Brogan to Represent Windsor-Essex at Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

– Local Windsor student wins 5th annual WFCU Credit Union Scripps Regional Spelling Bee –

WINDSOR, ON (March 27, 2023) – Following an intensive and exciting Sunday afternoon competition of elementary school students from across Windsor-Essex County, Isaac Brogan, a grade five student at Maranatha Christian Academy in Windsor, has been named the 2023 WFCU Credit Union Scripps Regional Spelling Bee champion, successfully spelling the winning word “conundrum”. With 25 finalists competing, this year’s Bee, now in its fifth year, saw the largest number of Windsor-Essex County schools competing. In addition to a six-night trip to Washington, D.C. for the Scripps National Spelling Bee this June 2023, WFCU has also awarded Issac a \$200 Educational Scholarship.

The WFCU Scripps Regional Spelling Bee was held at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts on Sunday, March 26, featuring Jim Crichton of CTV Windsor fame as the Host, and Windsor Star Managing Editor, Craig Pearson, as the Pronouncer. It was sponsored by WFCU and the St. Clair College Alumni Association. It was a close and competitive event, going 20 rounds before the Champion Word round, where Issac successfully spelled his final word and was named champion. Congratulations also goes to runner-up, Benjamin DiDomenico, a grade six student from St. Joseph’s Catholic Elementary School in Amherstburg.

“Providing youth with opportunities for growth and development is an important part of our mission and our commitment to the communities we operate in,” said Eddie Francis, President and CEO of WFCU Credit Union. “We’re proud to continue our annual sponsorship of the Windsor-Essex Scripps Regional Spelling Bee to foster learning and healthy competition in a fun and interactive way. Congratulations to Isaac and his family. We will be cheering you on this June!”

Earlier this year, WFCU hosted the inaugural ECU – A Division of WFCU Credit Union Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in the Waterloo Region, bolstering its community support and programming for its growing Tri-City membership. As part of WFCU’s community engagement program, *Inspire*, the Regional Spelling Bees promote literacy and language arts in an engaging way. They also align with the Credit Union’s mission to support organizations and individuals that contribute to the well-being of the community, with particular emphasis on youth, education and health.

Isaac Brogan of Maranatha Christian Academy will now advance to compete in the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee held near Washington, D.C., where he will be competing against hundreds of students from around the world. The highly-anticipated event will be televised on ION, the Bee’s broadcast home. Full broadcast details can be found at spellingbee.com.

In addition to flight and accommodations during the event and a \$200 Educational Scholarship on behalf of WFCU Credit Union, Isaac has also won the following:

- **The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award** – a 2023 United States Mint Proof Set provided by Jay Sugarman, chairman and CEO of iStar Financial, in honour of his father.
- **The Britannica Online Premium** – a one-year subscription for the premier online resource from Encyclopedia Britannica.

- **The Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online** – a one-year subscription for the official word source for all levels of competition for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“We were very proud of every student who competed at this year’s event,” said Beth Ann Prince, Manager, Member Engagement & Community Investment, WFCU Credit Union. “Taking the stage took bravery, confidence and concentration. You are all champions and exemplify the spirit of the Bee. I’d also like to thank all of the participating schools and teachers who invested time in the program. We hope to see you again next year!”

*To request media interviews, please contact Julia Harper at jharper@wfcu.ca or 647-330-4706.

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About WFCU Credit Union:

WFCU Credit Union has been recognized as a leading, progressive financial institution headquartered in Windsor and Essex County since 1940. Proudly serving Ontario residents, community organizations, small businesses, commercial entities and public institutions for over 80 years, WFCU Credit Union is the sixth largest credit union in Ontario, and twentieth largest credit union in Canada.

WFCU Credit Union operates nine retail locations in Windsor-Essex as well as three retail locations in the Waterloo Region through ECU – A Division of WFCU Credit Union and one digital entity, Omnia Direct. Through their variety of service channels including online and mobile banking, telephone banking and ATM services, WFCU Credit Union and its divisions have become the financial institutions of choice for 65,356 members across Ontario including 60,544 personal members in 25,325 households, 3,456 businesses and 1,356 organizations. Currently, WFCU Credit Union has \$8.99 billion in Managed Assets and Member Service Totals of \$11.8 billion. WFCU Credit Union membership is open to anyone who lives and/or works in Ontario.

About Scripps National Spelling Bee:

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation’s largest and longest-running educational program, having launched in 1925. The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. Visit spellingbee.com for more information about the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP).

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