

Credit Unions Celebrate Their Rising Stars



CCUA President Paul Gentile (rear, third from the left) joins with the 2017 Class of Credit Union Rising Stars during the annual recognition breakfast at yesterday's Great New England Credit Union Show

Twelve up-and-coming credit union executives were recognized for their ability to personify credit union values and principles during yesterday's Credit Union Rising Stars recognition breakfast held at the Great New England Credit Union Show. Cooperative Credit Union Association President/CEO Paul Gentile served as host of the early morning gathering, held at the Boxboro Regency and attended by more than 70 colleagues and friends of the honorees.

John "Bernie" Winnie, president/CEO of Boston Firefighter's Credit Union and board chairman of the Cooperative Credit Union Association, addressed the gathering in lieu of the intended keynote speaker, State Senator Jamie Eldridge's inability to attend, after being called to a meeting in Washington, D.C.

Winnie stressed the importance for credit unions to cultivate young professionals by creating a way for them to succeed and prosper within the industry. He said that while for many, the word "Millennial" may connote a variety of stereotype and negative images, there is one characteristic of Millennials that certainly rings true. It is their reputation for wanting to help, to do good.

"Isn't that what credit unions are all about," Winnie asked?

This year's Rising Star Honorees included:

Elizabeth Centofanti, RTN Federal Credit Union
Katherine Hubbard, Tremont Credit Union
Lola Johnson Shoesmith, Hanscom Federal Credit Union
Brian Kelley, Bellwether Community Credit Union
Eric Lampedecchio, Metro Credit Union
Sarissa Markowitz, UMassFive College Federal Credit Union
Katie Martin, Pioneer Valley Federal Credit Union
Susan Pereira, Naveo Credit Union
Edmond Perry, GFA Federal Credit Union
Melissa Pomeroy, St. Mary's Bank Credit Union
Jennifer Rivera-Cintron, Align Credit Union
Lydia Vazquez, Leominster Credit Union

A full carousel of photos from the Credit Union Rising Stars Breakfast can be accessed [HERE](#).