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Inclusiv

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inclusiv Announces 2023 Awardees for the *Annie Vamper Helping Hands Award*

March 27, 2023, New York – Inclusiv is excited to announce two 2023 *Annie Vamper Helping Hands Award* winners at [Inclusiv Conference 2023](#) in Memphis, TN. The award is named for [Annie Vamper](#) who dedicated her life to empowering financial inclusion for low-income people through credit unions and recognizes individuals who are making extraordinary contributions to the Community Development Credit Union (CDCU) movement. This year's awardees are **Sue Cuevas**, President and CEO, [Nueva Esperanza Community Credit Union](#) and **Sheilah Montgomery**, President of Florida A&M Federal Credit Union and Founding Member and Board of Director of the [African American Credit Union Coalition](#). Inclusiv is delighted to honor the legacy of Annie Vamper through these incredible CDCU trailblazers.



Sue Cuevas

Sue Cuevas is the inaugural CEO for the first Latino credit union in Ohio, Nueva Esperanza Community Credit Union, chartered in 2010. Her passion and persistence to help the Latino, immigrant, and underserved/unbanked communities is what drives her commitment to sharing financial education and credit counseling opportunities with these communities. She has more than 30 years of experience working in the banking and financial industry. Sue has taught numerous classes on financial literacy and has developed bilingual education programs, focusing on first-time homebuyers in Northwest Ohio.

"The importance of community development and service is vital to the success of ALL credit unions," Cuevas says. "Community Development is the solid strong foundation of credit unions that helps connect diverse communities and show them how to improve their quality of life and strive to become better citizens in both economic and business ventures. By providing services, we re-invest in our communities providing educational and financial resources which then unites us so we can become a stronger and savvier generation."



Sheilah
Montgomery

For more than forty-five years, Sheilah Montgomery has been advancing the mission of the credit union movement while increasing the economic capacity and financial well-being of individuals, businesses, and communities. Over the years, Sheilah has been in a leadership role with many credit unions including CEO for [1st Choice Credit Union](#), the [Credit Union of Atlanta](#) and is currently CEO of [Florida A&M University Federal Credit Union](#) (FAMU). She is a Certified Chief Executive (CCE), Credit Union Development Educator (CUDE), an International (South Africa) CUDE (I-CUDE) and is a co-founder of the [African American Credit Union](#)



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[Coalition](#) (AACUC). Sheilah and a fellow CUDEs started the financial literacy program for students at the AACUC called the *Financial Reality Fair*. For the last 9 years, the *Financial Reality Fair* has been an integral part of the AACUC conference.

“Community Development Credit Unions are the epitome of the ‘good neighbor’,” Montgomery notes. “The economic well-being of individuals, families, and communities is predicated on having access to affordable financial products and services. CDCUs are focused on providing a trusted, respectful, and empathetic environment to meet people where they are. It is a privilege to be one of many servant-leaders that work tirelessly to close the wealth gap by creating opportunities for financial education, as well as access to capital.”

“Advancing economic justice for the underserved is an important component of human dignity for the people and communities community development credit unions serve,” according to Cathie Mahon, Inclusiv President/CEO. “The credit union movement is honored to work with inspiring people like Sue and Sheilah who have a commitment to financial inclusion for everyone.”

Inclusiv is proud to honor these two remarkable CDCU champions with the prestigious *Annie Vamper Helping Hands Award* during a special dinner at **Inclusiv Conference 2023** in Memphis, Tennessee. Register to attend Inclusiv Conference 2023 [here](#). Separate registration is required for the *Annie Vamper Helping Hands Award* dinner. Learn more about current and previous *Annie Vamper Helping Hands* awardees [here](#).

Founded in 1974, Inclusiv empowers its member credit unions to advance financial inclusion for everyone through advocacy, education, technology, and investment initiatives designed to create wealth-building opportunities in communities excluded from the financial mainstream.

Inclusiv was instrumental in establishing the [Community Development Financial Institutions \(CDFI\) Fund](#) in 1994, is a certified CDFI intermediary, and a permanent member of the national [CDFI Coalition](#).

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