



_____ CHAPTER

**2026-2027 CUxEL PROTÉGÉ
CANDIDATE APPLICATION/ESSAY FORM**

(If completing by hand, please write legibly)

Personal Information

Name (first, last) _____

Preferred Pronoun(s) _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Credit Union _____

Professional Title _____ Year Joined _____

Work City/State _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Work E-mail Address _____

Social Tags (Facebook, Twitter(X), LinkedIn, etc.):

Hometown (city/state) _____

High School _____ City/State _____

College(s) _____ Degree/Focus _____

_____ Degree/Focus _____

Chosen Speech Presentation Topic:

Alternate Speech Presentation Topic (if 3 or more finalists have selected the SAME speech topic, you may be contacted and asked to elect using this “backup speech” topic):



Additional Information

Titles Held/Awards Won:

Offices Held:

Future Goals/Ambitions:

Special Interests/Hobbies:

Favorite Part of Credit Unions?

NOTE: Failure to return this form, your photo, and/or photo release form by the deadline specified may result in disqualification from the League finals. The information included on this form may be used in news releases and publications for the League finals.



IMPORTANT!! As part of your application to compete in the CUxEL Protégé Competition, this one-page essay (approx. 3-5 paragraphs) will be scored by chapter-level judges in combination with your oral presentation performance. Please make sure if you're writing by hand that it is legible, or you may type out your essay on a separate page or in the field below to submit with your application. Essays are due by the deadline determined by your chapter.

ESSAY PROMPT:

Does a leader shape culture, or does culture shape the leader? Please explain your answer.

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Credit Union Consent Form

(For Credit Union Management Use Only)

We are pleased that your employee is applying to participate in the **CUxEL Protégé Competition**. Your signature below indicates your (you and the Credit Union) approval and understanding of the following requirements for: (1) your employee should he or she win at the chapter and finals levels; and (2) the potential financial support for travel and expenses that your credit union may provide during and/or after the competition.

Obligations for a Chapter-Level Protégé

- To travel and attend the competition finals.
- To participate in a virtual interview round and present his or her presentation at the finals competition.
- Optional: All Protégé contestants, with approval from their supervisors, are invited to participate in the CUxEL Mentor Program.

Obligations for the 2026-2027 CUxEL Protégé

- The winner of the finals competition will have a position on the CUxEL Council. His or her responsibilities, coordinated by CUxEL, may include:
 - Presentations at various credit union chapters on his or her background, experience, CUxEL, and the Protégé programs;
 - Assist in facilitating CUxEL events; and/or
 - Participation in the CCUL LAUNCH Conference the following year (to pass on the torch).
- Immediate benefit to the 2027 CUxEL Protégé and the two runners-up is a selection of one of the following developmental scholarships.
 - SRCUS' Southeast Management School – One-year registration, at current value (requires commitment to three-year program)
 - CCUL Hike the Hill (Washington, DC) – Full participation including airfare and lodging, valued at \$1,500
 - 8 sessions TalentGuided Professional Coaching with coach of your choice – subject to availability (valued at \$1,400)
 - Principles & Philosophy Conference + Webinar Voucher – Includes conference tuition, two nights lodging, meals, and a \$600 webinar voucher (total value around \$1,300).

Credit Union Financial Responsibilities

Credit union chapters sending a finalist to the dual-state competition during the Carolinas Credit Union League's LAUNCH Conference are predominately responsible for costs related to conference registration, hotel accommodations, and traveling expenses (or stipend). However, because chapter budgets vary across the Carolinas, sponsor credit unions are encouraged to work with your chapter to support the cost of sending your candidate to the finals.

Signature

Date

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