



## Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union Opens On-Campus Branch at Meeting Street Academy

Spartanburg, S.C. — Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union held a grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at Meeting Street Academy, Spartanburg, S.C.

The credit union, in collaboration with the school, has implemented a college savings program called **"Dollars for Diplomas,"** aimed at starting young children and families on the best possible track for future education and financial success. On 'savings days' students are allowed to visit the in-school branch to make deposits. The credit union staff oversee the older students working as 'tellers' and 'manager', sharpening their math and interpersonal skills. The credit union also works with parents by offering financial literacy workshops after school hours.



*Left to right: Principal Raine Hackler; Student Teller Ken Kennon; CFFCU Board Chairman Isaac Dickson; Student Manager Gabriella Copeland ; CFFCU President/CEO Scott Weaver and Student Teller Kennedy Jones.*

School Principal Raine Hackler addressed the familial aspect of the collaboration, saying, "We want to demystify the process of saving for something as daunting as college. As a parent, it can be overwhelming to prioritize saving for something so far on the horizon—especially when life's demands can be unpredictable. We want to create a simple solution for saving that allows our vision of best preparing our students for the future, and of strengthening each family in our school community."

President and CEO of Carolina Foothills, Scott Weaver said, "Our staff has been energized by the enthusiasm of the parents and students for this program, putting us very close to 100% participation, and proving that savings mobilization is a much needed and desired part of the overall educational offering at Meeting Street Academy. Engaging each week with the students, watching their savings grow, makes us feel that we are giving them the tools they need to be successful and its the highlight of our week!"

*Meeting Street Academy is an early childhood education program dedicated to providing high-quality educational opportunities to young students, with a focus on family partnership. Founded in Charleston in 2008, Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg opened downtown in July 2012 and currently serves 156 students ages 3-8 from across Spartanburg County. Meeting Street Academy is partnering with Spartanburg School District 7, beginning in July 2016, to provide a public-private education to students living within an agreed upon attendance zone.*

*Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union, a financial cooperative and certified community development financial institution, extends membership to over 125 organizations and companies throughout the Upstate of South Carolina. Additional membership opportunities exist within three distinct community service areas. With offices in Spartanburg, Greenville and Cherokee Counties, the credit union has over 14,000 members and \$100 million in assets.*