



ALLIANT
credit union

twenty4ever

March 2007

a newsletter for Alliant Credit Union young adult members



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Class of '07 strikes job hunting gold

2007 is an awesome year to be a college senior about to enter the job market, the strongest entry-level market since the dot.com boom of 2000-2001. Employers plan to hire 17.4% more graduates this year than last, according to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Today's grads are expected to enjoy higher starting salaries, heftier signing bonuses and even intense competition among employers eager to hire them. "Close to 40% of our seniors have job offers," estimates Trudy Steinfeld, New York University's executive director of career development. "Salaries are up about 5% to 10% since last year, and companies are offering bigger signing bonuses — up to \$10,000," she says.

And some college career counselors, such as Mike Hendel at Carleton College, in Northfield, MN, say they are helping students who suffer an enviable problem: "deciding among two or three really good offers."

Economists attribute this rosy job outlook to a relatively strong U.S. economy, big-time corporate profits and growing business demands.

Sources: Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Washington University in St. Louis Record, CNN Money

DIVIDEND RATE

April 2007 dividend

DECLARED MARCH 22, 2007

The April 2007 Savings and IRA Dividend provides a Compounded Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 4.85% to members who have maintained an average daily balance of \$100 or more.

Savings Dividends payable to Shareholders on record as of April 30, 2007.

The Monthly Checking Dividend provides a Compounded Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 0.25% to members who have maintained an average daily balance of \$1,000 or more.

Note: The checking dividend may change monthly.

certificate dividend –

12-month Certificate provides a Dividend rate of 5.03% - Compounded Annual Percentage Yield of 5.15%.

24-month Certificate provides a Dividend rate of 5.03% - Compounded APY of 5.15%. The Certificate Dividend compounds monthly and is credited at the end of each month and at maturity to your Certificate. Minimum Certificate deposit is \$1,000.

Early withdrawal penalties apply. The Certificate dividend rate may change daily. Contact Alliant for more information about fees, terms, and conditions that may apply. Rate as of December 21, 2006.

The big money degrees for 2007 grads

Across the board, the job market has a strong demand for recent college graduates, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). However, as usual, students who majored in certain fields are expected to reap higher starting salaries.



College major	Starting salary increase from 2006	Salary
Mechanical engineering	up 7.7%	to \$54,587
Chemical engineering	up 7.4%	to \$60,054
Management information systems	up 5.5%	to \$46,568
Civil engineering	up 4.8%	to \$47,145
Electrical engineering	up 3.2%	to \$54,599
Computer science	up 2%	to \$51,070
Accounting	up 1.7%	to \$46,508

Source: CNN Money

Earn a college scholarship!

**JUNE 29 DEADLINE
FOR APPLICATIONS**

This summer, Alliant will again award five \$2,000 scholarships totaling \$10,000 through our fifth annual Members Scholarship Program. To qualify, you must be applying to or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program at a four-year college, university or vocational/technical institution with a minimum of 12-credit hours during the 2007 fall semester.

Applicants should submit the following:

1. Completed Members Scholarship Application
2. Statement of personal goals
3. Essay on "What does belonging to Alliant Credit Union mean to me?"
4. Complete list and description of community involvement and/or extracurricular activities
5. Official high school or college transcripts

Return your completed application and required paperwork to your local Service Center or mail to:

Alliant Credit Union
Attn: Members Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 66945
Chicago, IL 60666-0945

Application and required paperwork must be received or postmarked by Friday, June 29, 2007. Winners will be notified by August 6.



Applications available at www.alliantcreditunion.org

5 things college graduates rarely learn about managing money

Many college students today graduate with an education that doesn't include how to manage money, says Mike Sullivan, director of education at the Take Charge America debt counseling company in Phoenix, AZ.

During their first year after college, many grads fail to realize that they're drowning in debt (with an estimated average \$8,000 in the red, not including student loans). Then, within a couple of years, the inescapable reality of their financial crisis sets in, Sullivan adds. To help avoid this economic nightmare, Sullivan recommends the following:

1. Before taking on new debt, ease the debt you already have. Pay off credit cards before buying a new auto or signing a hefty lease on an apartment.

2. Adjust your attitude. You probably can't afford the lifestyle you feel entitled to. Be patient and live below your means for several years. After all, your parents probably worked years to get where they are.

3. Develop a feasible budget before your first day of work. And stick with it.

4. Start saving as soon as you earn your first paycheck, even if it's just \$5. Every time you get a raise, set aside 10% of it for savings.

5. Beware of dead-end career jobs, even if they pay well when you're fresh out of school. Take a job that sets the stage for your next job.

Source: www.azcentral.com

Beware of the MySpace scam

The MySpace web site has become increasingly popular, especially with teens and young adults. This site enables users to keep in touch through e-mail, chat-rooms, blogs, games and events. But, fraudsters are now trying to spoil the fun in MySpace land by stealing people's identity and money.

Currently, a "MySpace" scam is being delivered to e-mail inboxes throughout cyberspace. The scam starts with a bulletin that reads "CHECK OUT these old school pictures." If you get that e-mail, beware! By clicking on the link, you'll be directed to a bogus screen that is an exact reproduction of the MySpace log in screen. When you log on, phishers will record your log on information, and then ask you to provide financial information. Fraud investigators warn that these phishers may be counting on MySpace users' log on information to be the same for their accounts at other financial institutions or for online payment systems.

Be extremely cautious when providing log on information to web site links from e-mails. Furthermore, the FBI advises to avoid using the same user names and passwords for your various online accounts. If you think you've been a victim of an Internet scam, file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov/>.

office closings

Alliant will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Memorial Day
Monday, May 28

Independence Day
Wednesday, July 4

For your convenience, SkyBranch®, SST and ATMs will be available.

dial direct: Alliant is there when you need us

Self Service Telephone (SST)
773-462-2100, 800-482-5328
24-hour account access

Alliant TeleCenter
800-328-1935
TDD/TTY 773-462-2300

VISA® ATM/Check Card
Lost/Stolen: 800-328-1935
After Hours: 866-861-5411

VISA® Credit Cards
To speak to an Alliant representative: 800-328-1935, x2302
Mon-Fri, 7am-5pm CT
After Hours: 866-444-8529
Lost/Stolen: 866-839-3485

VISA Gift Card
Purchase: 800-328-1935
Support Center: 866-466-2362

Mortgage Hotline
800-365-7003
Mon-Th, 7:30am-7pm CT
Fri, 7:30am-5pm CT

Auto/Home Insurance
888-380-9287
Mon-Fri, 6am-10pm CT
Sat, 6am-8pm CT

BALANCE Financial Fitness
888-456-2227
Mon-Th, 5am-8pm PT
Fri, 5am-5pm PT
Sat, 8am-5pm PT

Alliant Headquarters
11545 W. Touhy Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60666

NEW Deposits/Payments
P.O. Box 60050
City of Industry, CA 91716-0050

All Other Correspondence
P.O. Box 66945
Chicago, IL 60666-0945

For Alliant Service Center locations, SkyBranch®, and product and service information, visit our web site
www.alliantcreditunion.org

 **ALLIANT**
credit union

11545 W. Touhy Avenue Chicago, IL 60666
www.alliantcreditunion.org

 Equal Housing Lender

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NCUA
National Credit Union Administration
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