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**SUNCOAST CREDIT UNION CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF  
“GREEN” BUILDINGS IN FORT MYERS**

TAMPA, Fla. (January 19, 2017)—Suncoast Credit Union announces the grand opening of two “green” buildings in Fort Myers. The Riverdale Service Center is located at 14021 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers and the Southern Training Center is located next door at 14001 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers. The opening ceremony was held this morning with branch management welcoming the community to the new locations.

“At Suncoast, our goal is to help our members become truly literate about their personal finances,” said Kevin Johnson, CEO at Suncoast Credit Union. “With this fourteenth service center in Lee County, we are able to expand our reach and make an even greater impact in this growing area. We are proud to provide the advantages of a strong credit union to our 42,887 members in Fort Myers. These new efficient buildings make it more convenient for current and prospective members to experience our lower rates on loans, our wide range of free services and our community outreach.”

Attendees of the grand opening met the service center staff, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony, entered to win \$50 Visa gift cards, enjoyed music by a live DJ, grabbed cash from the money machine and even had a chance to tour the Southern Training Center.

“Both our training center and the new Fort Myers branch are a part of Suncoast’s goal to be an active and responsible member of the community through our green initiatives,” said Bakari Kennedy, Director of Facilities at Suncoast Credit Union. “These two buildings are expected to be net zero—meaning they will use zero electricity to power the building, saving the credit union a total of approximately \$32,000 annually.”

The buildings count on a total of 696 rooftop solar panels providing a total of 185,071 kilowatt-hours of energy per year. In addition to the solar panels, the buildings are equipped with interfaced recycled carpet, interior and exterior LED lighting and low-flow water fixtures. With the addition of the Riverdale Service Center and the Southern Training Center, Suncoast has constructed thirteen “green” buildings since 2013—five of which are net zero buildings. In total, Suncoast’s green and solar initiatives save the credit union \$305,000 annually.

At the opening, the community had the opportunity to hear from CEO Kevin Johnson, Director of Facilities Bakari Kennedy, Service Center Manager Melissa Dean and Senior Vice President of Member Experience Darlene Johnson. Guests also learned about the impact the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has in Lee County. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has raised and donated over \$16 million to the communities that Suncoast serves—including over \$572,000 in Lee County alone. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting the education, health and emotional well-being of children through the funding of scholarships, public schools, medical research and development, family support organizations and other charitable programs of direct benefit to children.

**About Suncoast Credit Union**

*Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in the state of Florida, the ninth largest in the United States based on membership and the 12th largest in the United States based on its \$7.8 billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast Credit Union currently operates 62 full-service branches and serves more than 694,149 members in the following Florida counties: Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Dixie, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter. Since its founding in 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated over \$16 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education and emotional well-being of children in the communities that the credit union serves. For more information, visit: [suncoastcreditunion.com](http://suncoastcreditunion.com), [facebook.com/SuncoastCreditUnion](https://www.facebook.com/SuncoastCreditUnion) or @SuncoastCU.*

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