



DBSI

VISIONARY
VOICES 2026

Carolina Credit Union Initiative

The Future of Banking

Suppose you have \$100 in a savings account earning 2 percent interest a year. After five years, how much would you have in the account?

- A. More than \$102
- B. Less than \$102
- C. Exactly \$102
- D. Don't know

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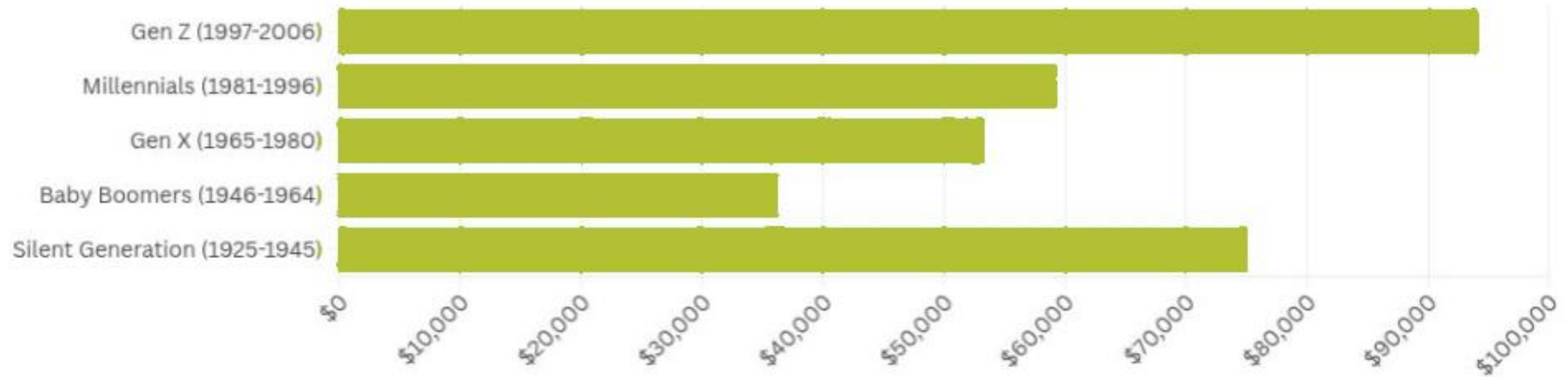
56%

of students would have trouble getting \$500
cash or credit in an emergency

Source: Trellis Strategies, 2024

Average Debt per Generation in the U.S.

U.S. adults were asked about their personal debt, revealing Gen Z have the highest average debt.



Source: [Talker Research for Newsweek, 2025](#)

Newsweek

Since the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act,
the financial sector has **strayed away**
from a community-focused mission.

14%

of Gen Z Americans trust banks “a lot”

Source: Coin Law, 2025

ze

 Robinhood

se



C

Credit unions: an **ethical, affordable, and community-focused** alternative.

9

Problem

There are **no credit unions available** to UNC students in Chapel Hill.

The big bank monopoly leaves students with **higher rates, more fees, and limited services.**



Solution

The proposed Carolina Students' Credit Union will be the **only student-run credit union** at a **public university** and the first NC credit union chartered this century.



Expected Financial Services



Credit Builders and Rent Reporting



Debit, Checking, ACH, Zelle



Internship and Graduation Loans

Financial Literacy Services

- Collaboration with the **Carolina Financial Well-Being Center**
- **Consultative services** that understand members' unique financial situations
- Personalized collections and outreach to struggling members



Revitalizing the Credit Union Movement

53

Average age of U.S.
credit union members

Source: World Council of Credit Unions, 2020

84%

Portion of our FOM survey
respondents who said they would
consider becoming a member

Developing Financial Leaders

Develop leaders who **understand the credit union movement and are committed to advancing the public good** through financial services.

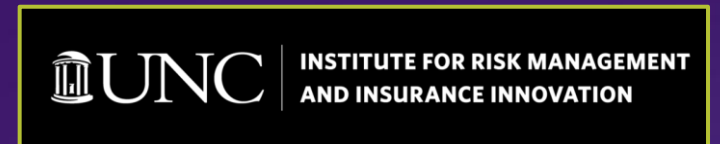


We earned second place at the Kenan-Flagler Business School Carolina Pitch Fest in September 2025.

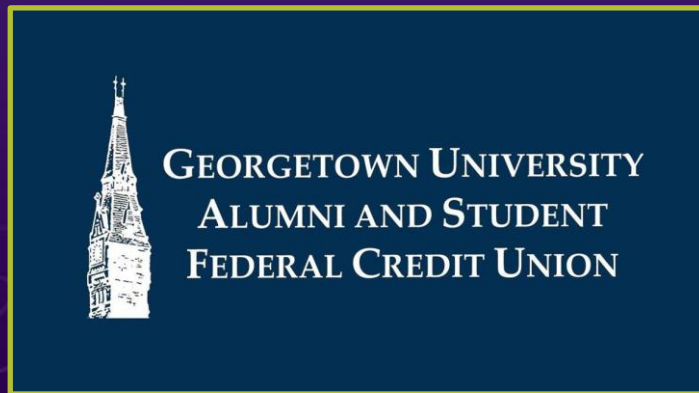
Innovation Opportunities

AI-native institution designed by and for young people at one of the nation's **leading research universities**.

Pioneer **technical and non-technical innovations** that will pay dividends **across the financial services industry**.



Industry Mentors



Postulations

- Young people have unique financial needs that banks are not currently serving
- People don't just want financial services, they want to be a part of something bigger than themselves
- New tech is great, but **banking is about people**

Questions?

Appendix

Board of Advisors



*Dr. Shimul
Melwani*
Kenan-Flagler
Business School



Chip Snively
Kenan-Flagler
Business School



Violet Wood
Georgetown
Univ. Alumni &
Student FCU



Denise Wymore
CU De Novo
Collective



Kevin Clark
Next Game
Advisors



Adam Versprille
FinQual



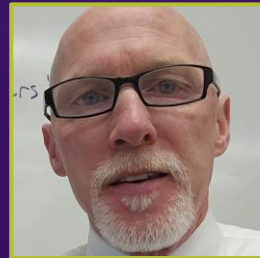
*Dr. Christopher
Roark*
UNC Department
of Economics



Jeff Mittelstadt
Ackerman
Center



Oliver Li
Univ. of
Pennsylvania
Students FCU



Douglas Stan
Economics
Educator



*Dr. Gilbert
Rogers*
UNC Financial
Well-being



*Jacquelyn
Copeland*
Scholarships &
Student Aid



*Creighton
Blackwell*
Coastal FCU



Jim Kitchen
Kenan-Flagler
Business School

Risks and Mitigants



Operational risk

- Rigorous trainings
- Policy handbook
- Vetted vendors



Compliance risk

- Research committee
- Close relationship with regulators



Continuity risk

- Advisory board
- Robust recruiting
- Summer operations