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VALDOSTA, GA (1/24/2011) At a meeting of the Valdosta Educators Credit Union general membership held Monday, January 24, 2011, Valdosta Educators Credit Union voted to unite with MEA Federal Credit Union of Columbus, GA.

Valdosta Educators Credit Union, chartered in 1972, has served the faculty, staff, and students of Valdosta State University for 39 years, and now plans to join with MEA Federal Credit Union, a \$50-million credit union, federally chartered in 1960 to serve teachers in Muscogee County. The two educator credit unions' combined capital strength of 15% and assets of \$62 million will provide for expanded hours of operation at the 308 East Ann Street location in Valdosta and bring increased service benefits for the Valdosta State membership.

"The education common bond is key to our partnership and to our success going forward," said Polly Bell, CEO of MEA Federal Credit Union. "I am very excited about the opportunity to bring MEA's expanded programs to Valdosta State educators, as well as increasing the credit union's involvement in the Valdosta community as a good corporate citizen. MEA remains dedicated to our founding mission of serving active and retired educators and their families, and to creating a positive impact on the educational institutions in which our members work and the communities in which they live."

The proposal and plans for unification of the two financial entities has been approved by the National Credit Union Administration and the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. The transition is not expected to be complete until March 31, 2011.

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