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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Smart Financial Foundation to Honor Community Impact & Lifetime Achievement Award Winners**

*The Justin J. Watt Foundation and Dr. William A. Young, Jr. to be Honored at Smart Financial Foundation Luncheon*

**HOUSTON, TX (September 26, 2018)** – On Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 11:30am, [The Smart Financial Foundation](https://www.smartcu.org/smart-financial-foundation) will present its 2018 Community Impact Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Honorees include:

* Justin J. Watt Foundation – Community Impact Award (presented to Connie Watt, Vice President)
* Dr. William A. Young, Jr. – Lifetime Achievement Award

“In its brief history, the Smart Financial Foundation has honored individuals and organizations who have greatly impacted the communities in which they serve. This year is no different. Both the Justin J. Watt Foundation and Dr. William A. Young, Jr. exemplify the Smart Financial Foundation’s mission to change lives, improve communities and achieve dreams.” said Larry Seidl, President/CEO of Smart Financial Credit Union and the Foundation.

The Smart Financial Foundation is honored to present the Justin J. Watt Foundation with its Community Impact Award. Their Foundation’s primary focus is to provide after school opportunities for children in the community to become involved in athletics, learn the basic character traits of accountability, teamwork, leadership, work ethic and perseverance in a safe and supervised environment with their peers. Following Hurricane Harvey, their commitment to Houston and surrounding communities with hurricane relief has helped many with food, clothing and rebuilding. Past Community Impact Award honorees include the CHRISTUS Foundation for Healthcare; Kerry Schmidt of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce; Linda Toyota of the Asian Chamber of Commerce; and Dee Koch of the George Foundation.

The Smart Financial Foundation will present Dr. William A. Young, Jr. with the Lifetime Achievement Award for recognition of his long career in education which included various teaching and administrative positions with Houston Independent School District and the Houston Community College System. Dr. Young also provided 45 years of leadership as a member of the Board of Directors for Smart Financial Credit Union and the Smart Financial Foundation. Past Lifetime Achievement Award honorees include Khambrel Marshal of KPRC-TV Channel 2; Dr. Billy Reagan, former Superintendent for the Houston Independent School District; and Richard “Dick” Ensweiler, past CEO of the Cornerstone Credit Union.

This year’s luncheon will take place at the Junior League of Houston (1811 Briar Oaks Ln, Houston, TX 77027). Khambrel Marshal of KPRC-TV Channel 2 is scheduled to serve as emcee and Connie Watt, Vice President of the Justin J. Watt Foundation and proud mother of JJ Watt, defensive end for the Houston Texans, Derek Watt, fullback for the Los Angeles Chargers; and TJ Watt, outside linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, will be the keynote speaker.

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The 2018 Smart Financial Foundation Luncheon is underwritten by Smart Financial Credit Union. The Title Sponsor is Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land and the Advocate Sponsor is Nabors. Other generous sponsors include the CHRISTUS Foundation for Healthcare, the West Law Group, Smart Financial Resources, and Credit Union Resources.

In addition to its annual luncheon and community awards program, the Smart Financial Foundation hosts an annual community golf tournament, which supports its Ruby Sue Clifton Scholarship Fund. Named in honor of a past chairman of [Smart Financial](http://www.smartcu.org/), the Ruby Sue Clifton Scholarship Program annually recognizes up to six outstanding high school seniors.

Since 2003, this program has awarded more than $200,000 to local high school seniors to help their education dreams come true by helping offset the cost of college or trade/vocational school.

Dedicated to changing lives, improving communities and achieving dreams, Smart Financial Foundation continues to be instrumental in supporting other local Greater Houston Area charities that further the education of local youth, adult students, and the medical community. For more information regarding the Smart Financial Foundation, its work and how to become a volunteer or donor, visit https://www.smartcu.org/smart-financial-foundation. Connect with Smart Financial Foundation on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SmartFinancialFoundation/), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/smartfinancialfoundation/?hl=en) (@SmartFinancialFoundation) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/smartfincharity) (@SmartFinCharity).

***About Smart Financial Foundation***

*Dedicated to giving back to communities the “Smart” way, the Smart Financial Foundation was formed in 2013 with the purpose of giving back to communities that Smart Financial serves. A registered 501c(3), the Smart Financial Foundation strives to change lives, improve communities and achieve dreams by donating time, money and other resources to not only individuals but also to organizations that help raise credit union awareness. For more information, visit https://www.smartcu.org/smart-financial-foundation, call*  713-407-1923 *or engage with the Smart Financial Foundation on* [*Facebook*](https://www.facebook.com/SmartFinancialFoundation/)*,* [*Instagram*](https://www.instagram.com/smartfinancialfoundation/?hl=en) *and* [*Twitter*](https://twitter.com/smartfincharity)*.*

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