FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2018

Contact: Bridget Petersen
Market VP of Community Outreach, SPIRE CU
651.641.2256 / 888.34.SPIRE x2256
bpetersen@myspire.com

SPIRE Wins National Lending Excellence Award

(L-R) SPIRE's Daniel Rathfelder, Cliff Wantz and Craig Backstrom
at the National Lending Awards Ceremony.

Falcon Heights, MN   SPIRE Credit Union has been honored with the 2018 National Excellence in Lending Award. The award, co-sponsored by Credit Union National Association (CUNA) and CUNA Mutual Group, recognizes credit unions for exemplary lending strategies. They established the program in 2000 to identify, recognize and share examples of lending excellence within the credit union movement.

SPIRE serves 106,000+ member-owners. In 2015, they began using data analytics and business intelligence as a basis for overhauling loan strategies and processes. The results are astounding. They increased consumer loan originations from $86.4 million in 2013 to $285.6 million annualized for 2018. SPIRE also expanded monthly indirect loan volume from $2.5 million to $14 million. SPIRE's members benefit from the changes, too, realizing a streamlined loan application process, quick turnaround time on loan decisions, rewards for additional products with SPIRE, and implemented a Beat Your Rate program.

"We are absolutely humbled to be recognized on the national level," said Cliff Wantz, SPIRE Sr. VP of Lending and Product, "Our employees work so hard to give members an efficient and seamless lending experience, and to see them acknowledged at this level makes me so proud of them!"

<div align="center">

\#   \#   \#

</div>

About SPIRE Credit Union: A full-service financial institution, proudly serving Minnesota and Wisconsin residents since 1934. SPIRE is committed to providing smart products, great rates and excellent service with a goal to improve the financial lives for both personal and business members. SPIRE has 18 branches across the metro and throughout northern Minnesota.

For more information, please visit www.myspire.com.