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ENERGYUNITED SEEKS BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS
Teachers can apply April 1 for education grants up to \$2,000

STATESVILLE, N.C.- EnergyUnited and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have pledged nearly \$600,000 to the state's teachers in Bright Ideas education grant funding for the 2015-16 school year. Grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded directly to local educators in EnergyUnited's service territory for creative, hands-on classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded by traditional school budgets. The grant application opens April 1 and can be found online at www.ncbrightideas.com along with more information about the program.

"For more than 20 years, Bright Ideas grants have helped teachers bring innovative ideas to life and get students excited about learning," said Maureen Moore, communications manager of EnergyUnited. "North Carolina's electric cooperatives believe there is no better investment than in the education of our youth, which is why we continue to support educators with our Bright Ideas grant program each year."

EnergyUnited expects to award approximately \$40,000 in Bright Ideas grants this year to teachers in EnergyUnited's 19-county service area. The grants are available to K-12 teachers for innovative projects in any subject. Teachers can apply individually or as a team and must apply online.

Applications will be accepted April 1 through Sept. 18, but Moore noted it could pay to apply early. Teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Friday, Aug. 14 will be entered to win a Visa gift card.

To apply, teachers must include a budget, explain the implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project, and have approval from the school principal. Applications will be judged in a competitive evaluation process, and judges will be on the lookout for projects that feature innovation and creativity. The application and grant-writing tips can be found at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Since 1994, the co-ops have worked to enhance education by engaging students in meaningful learning projects that encourage creative approaches. In the past two decades, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have contributed more than \$9.6 million to teachers for 9,200 projects benefiting more than 1.8 million students.

"Teachers have amazing, creative ideas for educating students but often do not have the resources to make those ideas come to life," Moore said. "The enthusiasm and dedication of educators never ceases to amaze us, and we are proud to support their efforts."

About EnergyUnited

EnergyUnited, an innovative and dynamic energy services company, serves more than 120,000 electricity members in 19 North Carolina counties, stretching from Virginia to northern Mecklenburg County and encompassing the fast-growing I-40, I-77, and I-85 corridors. Its service territory includes suburbs surrounding three of North Carolina's largest cities – Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Greensboro. EnergyUnited makes customer satisfaction its highest priority, and its electric customers enjoy one of the highest reliability ratings in the industry.

EnergyUnited also provides propane to more than 25,000 customers in 74 North and South Carolina counties and offers other specialized residential and commercial products and services. Visit EnergyUnited online at www.energyunited.com.