

For Immediate Release:

February 15, 2016

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BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS TOP \$10 MILLION IN NORTH CAROLINA

STATESVILLE, N.C. - North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have contributed more than \$10 million to North Carolina classrooms over the last 20 years through [Bright Ideas education grants](#).

Bright Ideas grants are awarded by each of North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives, including EnergyUnited, to local teachers. The grants fund creative learning projects in all subject areas and are available to teachers in grades K-12.

"Reaching this \$10 million milestone demonstrates the electric cooperatives' unwavering commitment to the communities we serve," said Maureen Moore, Communications Manager at EnergyUnited. "At EnergyUnited, Bright Ideas grants have allowed us to work with many exceptional teachers to bring exciting new resources to the classroom and make a real difference for students. It's a tradition we're proud to continue."

In 2015, EnergyUnited recently awarded 47 teachers with over \$40,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to fund innovative classroom learning projects. More than 5,000 students at schools in 19 counties across the co-op's service territory participated in Bright Ideas projects funded by EnergyUnited in 2015. During the past 21 years that EnergyUnited has been participating in the Bright Ideas Program, the co-o has granted over \$700,000 to teachers to fund their 'bright ideas'.

North Carolina's 26 electric co-ops awarded 585 Bright Ideas grants worth \$610,000 in 2015, which pushed the cumulative total for funding contributed to our state's classrooms to \$10.2 million. Over the life of the grant program, more than 9,800 projects have received funding statewide, directly benefiting more than 2 million students.

Bright Ideas grant applications are accepted annually from April through September and can be found at <https://www.energyunited.com/community/bright-ideas-program/>.

About the Bright Ideas Education Grant Program

The Bright Ideas education grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, strives to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to Tar Heel teachers in grades K-12 for innovative, classroom-based projects that would not otherwise be funded. Since 1994, the program has touched the lives of more than 1.8 million students who have participated in 9,200 Bright Ideas projects, and given out more than \$9.6 million. Each year, close to 600 grants are funded across the state.

About EnergyUnited

EnergyUnited EMC is the largest electric cooperative in North Carolina serving nearly a quarter million people through 124,000 metering points. Headquartered in Statesville, EnergyUnited provides electric service in portions of nineteen counties in west central North Carolina which include Alexander, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stokes, Wilkes and Yadkin. EnergyUnited Propane provides products and services to more than 25,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 74 counties across North and South Carolina. Visit EnergyUnited online at www.energyunited.com to learn more about our electric and propane businesses.