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**LOCAL TEACHER AND ENERGYUNITED BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT WINNER
HONORED AS TAR HEEL TEACHER OF THE WEEK**

STATESVILLE, N.C. - EnergyUnited is proud to announce that local teacher Mr. Tony Lellie, of Collaborative College of Technology & Leadership (CCTL) in Iredell County, is being honored on a statewide level as a Bright Ideas Tar Heel Teacher of the Week. EnergyUnited nominated Mr. Lellie in recognition of his dedication to students and for winning Bright Ideas education grant funding from the cooperative for the project entitled “Community Client Project.”

“We are privileged to work with many outstanding teachers through our Bright Ideas education grant program, and Tony consistently goes above and beyond to make a difference for students,” said Maureen Moore, Communications Manager for EnergyUnited. “It is an honor to recognize Mr. Lellie for his hard work and to be able to thank him for the positive contribution he makes in our community.”

Mr. Lellie is one of only 26 teachers statewide to receive the Tar Heel Teacher of the Week designation this school year. He will be recognized on the Tar Heel Sports Network radio that is broadcasting the UNC vs. Boston College basketball game on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, January 16, Mr. Lellie was also honored, along with his other 25 Tar Heel Teachers of the Week peers at the UNC vs. NC State basketball game and pre-game brunch at the Carolina Inn. Mr. Lellie, along with his peers, received a plaque commemorating their achievements, as well as tickets to the game.

EnergyUnited accepts Bright Ideas education grant applications from teachers for creative classroom learning projects at www.NCBrightIdeas.com every year from April through September. The Tar Heel Teacher of the Week and Bright Ideas education grant programs are examples of North Carolina’s electric cooperatives’ commitment to community.

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.