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***K-12 TEACHERS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY EARLY FOR BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT***

**STATESVILLE, N.C. –**

EnergyUnited is accepting applications for the Bright Ideas grant program. The education grants fund creative, classroom-based learning projects. The final deadline to apply is Friday, September 16. However, teachers submitting their completed application by the early-bird deadline of Monday, August 15 will have a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

“We are proud to support educators whose hard work, dedication and enthusiasm impact the lives of so many young people,” said Maureen Moore, Communications Manager at EnergyUnited. “Every year we are blown away by our local educators’ drive to create cutting-edge ways to bring learning to life in the classroom, and with Bright Ideas grants and the early bird prizes, we’re excited to offer something in return. We encourage all interested teachers to submit an application by Monday, Aug. 15 for a chance to win an extra \$100.”

The application, grant-writing tips and more information about the Bright Ideas education grant program can be found at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Classroom teachers at qualifying schools in EnergyUnited’s 19 counties: Alexander, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stokes, Wilkes and Yadkin can apply for grants individually or as a team. Last year, EnergyUnited awarded 47 teachers from 13 of the 19 counties they serve with over \$40,000 in Bright Ideas education grants that helped fund innovative classroom learning projects.

Teachers who submit their application by the early bird deadline of Monday, August 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. The early bird prize winners will be notified and recognized on the Bright Ideas website and Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas](http://www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas).

For more than 20 years, North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives have supported teachers and students with Bright Ideas grants. Since 1994, North Carolina’s electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$10.2 million in Bright Ideas grants funding for more than 9,800 projects benefitting two million students. “EnergyUnited is dedicated to supporting education in our local communities. By giving back to teachers, there is no better way to foster new learning opportunities for our future leaders,” Moore said.

North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives serve more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state’s 100 counties. The Bright Ideas education grant program is an example of the electric cooperatives’ commitment to empowering community and advancing education.

**About EnergyUnited** EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) is the largest electric cooperative in North Carolina serving nearly 105,000 consumer-members 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](http://www.energyunited.com) to learn more about our electric and propane businesses.