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**LOCAL STUDENTS VISIT NATION'S CAPITAL ON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR**

**STATESVILLE, N.C.**

Approximately 1,700 high schools students gathered in Washington, D.C. June 11-17 as delegates to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Dozens of North Carolina students, including **two** local delegates sponsored by EnergyUnited, took part in the week-long opportunity.

Rising high-school seniors Marcella Pansini, who attends South Iredell High School in Iredell-Statesville Schools, and Anisha Ponnappati who attends Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, were selected as delegates to the Tour by EnergyUnited. Both of these students were required to complete an application which highlighted their academic accomplishments and community involvement. They were both chosen as finalists and participated in personal interviews and were eventually chosen as EnergyUnited's representatives for the 2016 Youth Tour.

On the Youth Tour, students participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstarted their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives and toured Washington D.C.'s historic monuments and museums.

"Our Youth Tourists explored Washington D.C. with confidence and curiosity, and that was great to see," said Maureen Moore, communications manager at EnergyUnited. "The Youth Tour emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and the fact that politics touch every aspect of life. We hope the experiences and skills that delegates gained during the trip will benefit them on their journey to becoming our next great leaders."

On the seven-day tour, students learned about United States history at the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and many of the Smithsonian museums. The delegates paid their respects to soldiers who lost their lives in service to the nation at Arlington National Cemetery, and visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall as well as the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Several members of North Carolina's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sens. Burr and Tillis, as well as U.S. Reps. Adams, Butterfield, Jones, McHenry and Foxx, answered policy questions and offered advice to the students in a meeting on Capitol Hill.

For 53 years, America's electric cooperatives have brought students together from communities across America to build connections and practice leadership on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Thirty-nine students from North Carolina participated this year, joining peers representing electric co-ops in 45 states.

**About EnergyUnited**

EnergyUnited Electric Membership Cooperative (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.