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**Media contact**  
Maureen Moore, Communications Manager  
704-924-2159  
Maureen.moore@energyunited.com

***ENERGYUNITED AWARDS GRANTS TO TEACHERS FOR THEIR ‘BRIGHT IDEAS’***

**STATESVILLE, N.C.** – EnergyUnited is awarding nearly 40 teachers from 11 of the 19 counties they serve with over \$40,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to fund innovative classroom learning projects. Over 12,000 students at schools in Alexander, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Randolph, Rowan and Wilkes counties will participate in Bright Ideas projects funded by EnergyUnited this year.

“The Bright Ideas grant program helps teachers finance creative projects to benefit North Carolina’s youth,” said Maureen Moore, communications manager of EnergyUnited. “Teachers have so many great ideas, and we’re pleased to help these grant winners bring their ideas to life in the classroom.”

Winning projects include: archaeology, robotics, teaching history in various ways, outdoor landfills, STEAM projects, composting, robotics, fun ways to encourage reading, art, and learning about genetics and the human body. This year EnergyUnited’s leadership team will be visiting each teacher’s classroom and will present them with their grant money and a large check that they can proudly display in their school.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, EnergyUnited has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to local teachers. “EnergyUnited is committed to bettering the communities we serve, and we believe there is no better way than through the education of our youth,” Ms. Moore said.

North Carolina’s 26 electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$10.9 million to teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached well over 2.1 million North Carolina students and sponsored more than 10,400 projects in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year from April through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in the spring of 2018. To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [www.energyunited.com/bright-ideas-program](http://www.energyunited.com/bright-ideas-program).

**About EnergyUnited**

EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) is the largest electric cooperative in North Carolina serving over 126,000 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.