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**ENERGYUNITED STUDENTS CELEBRATE 50-YEAR LEADERSHIP TRADITION ON CAPITOL HILL**

**STATESVILLE, N.C.** - During the week of June 10-16, nearly 50 students from across the state, including two local students sponsored by EnergyUnited, took part in the NC Youth Tour to Washington D.C. High school juniors Brooke Blair of Thomasville, NC and Chetan Singalreddy of Mooresville, NC were selected by EnergyUnited to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour this year.

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 D.C.'s historic monuments and museums.

"Our Youth Tourists eagerly explored Washington D.C. with open minds and were ready to learn," said Maureen Moore, Communications Manager of EnergyUnited. "Even after 50 years, the Youth Tour is effective in emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and volunteerism in the community. We hope the delegates take the skills they gained during the trip and use them to become strong community leaders."

On the seven-day tour, students learned about United States history at the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and many of the Smithsonian museums. At Arlington National Cemetery, the delegates paid their respects to soldiers who lost their lives in service, and students also visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as well as the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Several members of North Carolina's congressional delegation answered policy questions and offered advice to the students in a meeting on Capitol Hill.

Students apply and are selected for the Youth Tour program by their local electric cooperative. Nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program nationally. Forty-five students from North Carolina participated this year, making this the state's largest delegate pool since the program began in 1967.

Also this year, one of EnergyUnited's Youth Tour winners, Chetan Singalreddy, has been chosen to represent the state of North Carolina at the 2017 Youth Leadership Conference in Washington DC on July 15-19, 2017. Youth Tourists from across the state voted to choose the individual that gave the best speech during a speech competition. Selection is also based on an application, public speaking ability and interaction with fellow youth tourists and advisors. As an added incentive, Chetan will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship.

**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.