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ENERGYUNITED KICKS OFF THE BRIGHT IDEAS PROGRAM

Teachers can apply for educational grants up to \$2,000

STATESVILLE, N.C. – Do you have an idea for an innovative classroom project? EnergyUnited is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2018-19 school year. Teachers in K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 for creative, hands-on classroom projects that would not otherwise be possible.

“For more than 20 years, Bright Ideas grants have helped electric cooperatives make a difference for tomorrow’s leaders by giving educators new resources to help students succeed,” said Maureen Moore, Communications Manager at EnergyUnited. “At EnergyUnited, we believe there is no better investment than in the education of our youth, and through Bright Ideas grants, teachers can bring their imaginative ideas to reality. We’ve seen throughout the years just how important these grants can be.”

EnergyUnited expects to award over \$40,000 in Bright Ideas grants again this year to teachers in the 19 counties it serves. The grants are available to K-12 teachers from public, public charter, private and Christian schools for innovative projects in any subject. Teachers can apply individually or as a team and must apply online.

Applications will be accepted through September 14, but Moore noted it could pay to apply early. Teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of August 14 will be entered to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

To apply, teachers must include a budget, explain the implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project. Applications will be judged in a competitive evaluation process, and selection committee will be on the lookout for projects that feature innovation and creativity. Teachers can learn more and apply online at: www.energyunited.com/bright-ideas-program.

Since 1994, EnergyUnited and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives have worked to enhance education by engaging students in meaningful learning projects that encourage creative approaches. In the past two decades, North Carolina’s electric cooperatives have received more than \$11.5 million in Bright Ideas grant funding, and well over 2.2 million North Carolina students have participated in approximately 11,000 Bright Ideas projects.

“Year after year, we are amazed by the creativity and dedication that our teachers put into their applications,” Moore said. “We’re proud to continue the co-op’s long tradition of supporting educators and investing in the future of our state.”

About EnergyUnited

EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) is the largest electric cooperative in North Carolina serving nearly 130,000 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.