

# CONNECT

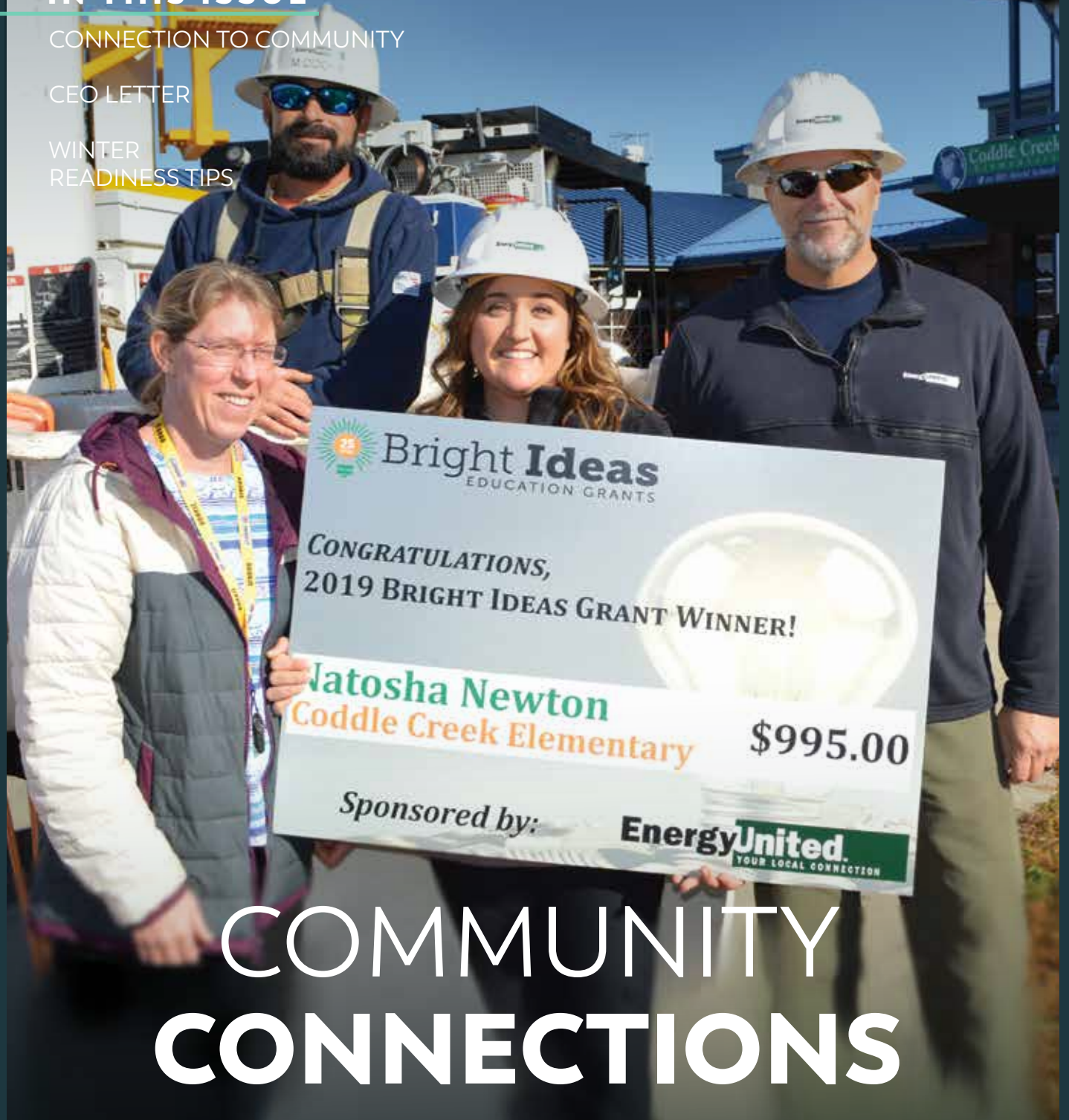
ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

CEO LETTER

WINTER  
READINESS TIPS



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO **H. WAYNE WILKINS**

## A CLEAR VISION OF OUR PATH IN **2020**

*We talk a lot about being Your Local Connection here at EnergyUnited, and you have probably noticed this tagline on our logo in this newsletter, on our website and in other places in your community. But what does it all mean? Of course, in a literal sense it means connecting you and your family to energy services. In a more symbolic sense, being Your Local Connection means focusing on what is most important to you from a foundation of trust. That trust starts with our ability to provide safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible energy services to you for the best value in the state.*

*Our responsibility to keep you connected to reliable energy sources is part of it, but it doesn't end there. EnergyUnited's commitment to the community comes in the form of providing resources, support and scholarships. These outreach initiatives take many forms like our Bright Ideas grants, Empowering the Future scholarships, and Sports Camp. And why? Because that's what we would want for our own children and educators. A community is better when we can trust our neighbors, and your continued trust inspires us to do our best each day. So, we will continue to strengthen our shared connection by focusing on all the things that matter to you most. Therefore, as we strategically consider how we can best support our communities we will also consider sustainable energy solutions and opportunities to leverage technology and innovation. These areas of attention underscore our consumers' interest in securing opportunities for future generations which will enable us to deliver even more value as Your Local Connection. It's all part of our plan for a brighter, more connected energy future.*

**H. Wayne Wilkins**

## **E-BILLING INCENTIVE**

Signing up for e-billing already comes with a lot of perks—like saving paper and postage—but also a chance to win an energy efficiency gift package including an EcoBee smart thermostat. One winner will be chosen at random. Don't miss out!

**Sign up for e-billing by signing into My Account and updating your billing preferences!**

**Congratulations to last month's e-billing winner, Maria Fregosi of Davidson, N.C.!**



# A TOUCHDOWN FOR OUR BRIGHT IDEAS WINNERS!



EnergyUnited's Bright Ideas program has expanded learning opportunities for students and teachers for over 25 years by awarding grants to North Carolina teachers to support innovative, classroom-based projects that wouldn't typically be funded by schools. In 2019 we were able to award 45 grants to teachers across 10 counties. We recognized these teachers at two regional luncheons but also coordinated special surprise visits for our seven Lake Norman region winners, including Mrs. Warnke.

Under the guise of a career day presentation, EnergyUnited linemen Brian Thompson and Jon Upright joined Carolina Panthers players Greg Van Roten and Taylor Moton and team mascot Sir Purr to surprise Emily Warnke, a teacher at Winget Park Elementary in Charlotte, with a Bright Ideas Education Grant for her innovative classroom project entitled "Fueling Learning with Renewable Energy."

"Electrical linemen have a very challenging job, but we always hear that these hardworking professionals enjoy each opportunity they have to deliver good news—which usually entails notifying others when power has been restored to a neighborhood or community," said Maureen Moore, communications manager for EnergyUnited. "Today, two EnergyUnited linemen had a chance to deliver a surprise announcement that created a uniquely rewarding experience for so many people."

The nearly \$2,000 grant will go toward the purchase of renewable and alternative energy exploration kits, which will enable students to collaboratively discover renewable energy solutions that will be used to illuminate the Winget Park Elementary School sign. Students will ultimately present their recommendations to the school PTO board for funding to support the idea that comes as a result of their studies.

Through this Project Based Learning unit that incorporates science, social studies, literacy, problem solving and communication skills, current and future fourth grade students will explore how solar, wind and other sources of energy are used to power everyday items.

The Bright Ideas program is just one example of electric cooperatives' commitment to community. In addition to supporting local communities, North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives power the lives of more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties.

## ABOUT BRIGHT IDEAS

For 25 years, the Bright Ideas education grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, has helped improve education by awarding funding to K-12 teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects that would not otherwise be funded. Since it was created in 1994, the program has awarded more than \$12.2 million to more than 11,700 projects, touching the lives of more than 2.3 million students statewide. Across the state, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded approximately \$600,000 this month to North Carolina educators to fund about 600 projects.



# YOUR CONNECTION

## NOTHING BUT NET IN 2020

**2020 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships are available for two rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Visit [www.energyunited.com/sports-camps](http://www.energyunited.com/sports-camps) to learn more and apply today.**

The best opportunities in life are the ones that come with very narrow windows. These opportunities come and go very quickly, and you often only get one shot to make the most of each one. This could be said of summer sports camp opportunities, especially when the camps are organized by two of the most prestigious college basketball programs in the Southeast.

The Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp and the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp offer incredibly impactful and uniquely memorable experiences for all participants. Each year, EnergyUnited sends one middle school boy to the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp and one middle school girl to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp for one week and covers all camp expenses.

In 2019, EnergyUnited selected Ivey Morrison of Statesville to attend the Wolfpack Women's Camp in Raleigh. To say the experience had a remarkable impact on Ivey would be an understatement. She was all smiles when she visited our office to share the highlights with us.

"Coach (Wes) Moore is kind of an idol for me," Ivey told us. "He sat beside me and told me there was something special about me. He always encouraged us to push ourselves when we were tired or had any doubts."

Meeting and receiving basketball advice from Coach Wes Moore was an experience that Ivey will never forget, but it wasn't the only highlight. In fact, she thinks it was probably a "close second" when compared to the chance she had to meet all the NC State players.

"My favorite part of the experience was having a chance to meet the players. Katie (Wadsorth) asked me after the trip how I was doing and whether I would come to watch any of their games this year," Ivey said. "I said, of course! I really can't wait to go back."

Ivey's encouraging words to those who wonder if they have a real shot at a Sports Camp Scholarship in 2020: "You can do it! You can do anything you want to do if you believe in yourself."



### OUR SPORTS CAMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

**Two lucky middle school students will be selected for a spot in either the Wolfpack Women's or Roy Williams Carolina Basketball camps in June 2020.**

**To learn more or to apply, simply visit [energyunited.com/sports-camps](http://energyunited.com/sports-camps).**



# TO COMMUNITY

## EMPOWERING THE FUTURE WITH JASON JIMENEZ!



Do you remember the last time you were forced to make a life-altering decision? When we ask this question, you may recall a specific time in your life quite easily—like a memory of your choice to take a new job or to move to a different community. It's also likely that your first thought involves decisions that you made before or around the time you graduated from high school.

Navigating these major life choices can be challenging for even the most astute. What do I want to do the rest of my life? Which pathway will best position me to achieve my goals? How can I obtain enough funding to support my decisions?

Jason Jimenez, one of our two 2019 Empowering the Future Scholarship winners, is now a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill. However, he can still clearly recall what it was like to be in this position and navigate many of these decisions—and as he recalls, the challenges do not subside immediately once the decisions are made.

“Like most first-year students in the first couple of weeks, I found myself lost on campus and feeling lost while trying to find my place,” Jimenez said. “But after having time to adjust to the bustling campus life, and having found a group of people with the same interests and hobbies as me, it helped make my experience congenial.”

Jimenez also remembers all the people and resources that helped make his transition relatively smooth. He says that EnergyUnited's Empowering the Future Scholarship had a positive impact.

“The scholarship required the submission of a paper résumé and an in-person interview, so not only did the panel who awarded the scholarship want to know the applicant on paper, but they also wanted to put to the test their communication skills. I found the same situation in college when applying for different academic and club opportunities,” Jimenez added. “The scholarship provided a level of financial security that made my transition into college life easier, too.”

These transitions aren't always easy for students, but the amount of preparation that often accompanies a major scholarship application—along with the stated financial value—can improve a student's ultimate experience. His advice to prospective college students navigating this environment in 2020 reflects one major thought: preparation is the biggest key.

“Be sure to ask yourself all the important questions and answer honestly. Why do you want to go to a specific school? What resources are there to help you achieve your goals? How can the school or scholarship opportunity help shape you into a better you?” Jimenez advised. “Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help in times of uncertainty.”

**Apply now through March 31 for your chance to win a \$5,000 Empowering the Future Scholarship from EnergyUnited. Visit [energyunited.com/scholarship-program](https://energyunited.com/scholarship-program) to learn more, or contact Adam Martin at [Adam.Martin@energyunited.com](mailto:Adam.Martin@energyunited.com).**

# 7 WINTER READINESS TIPS

STAY SAFE THIS SEASON WITH THESE WINTER-READY TIPS!

Winterize your home by installing weather stripping, and insulating the water lines that run along exterior walls.



Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies by installing a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.



Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.

Check your heating system and have it serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.



Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

Have a safe alternate heating source—like propane logs or our Generac generators—to kick in if power goes out.



Source: [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov)

Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion, and call (800) 222-1222 immediately if you notice them.

# BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

You know EnergyUnited provides reliable energy services to residents, but what about our impact on the business community? Mack Molding is a leading supplier of molded plastic parts, fabricated metals and high-level assemblies across industries, and one of EnergyUnited's valued member-customers. We recently sat down with Joe Carinci of Mack Molding to discuss our partnership, impact on the community and commitment to being your local connection.

## **How long have you worked with EnergyUnited?**

We have worked with EnergyUnited at Mack Molding Statesville, N.C. since 1990, so next year will be our 30th year partnering with them. We rely on them as our trusted source for both electricity and propane.

## **How does partnering with EU help facilitate a better business, more robust bottom line and/or a positive community footprint?**

EnergyUnited has consistently worked with us to improve our power efficiencies. Whether that means auditing our usage levels for optimal benefits or implementing energy conservation efforts like our lighting improvements, EnergyUnited has been a willing partner in helping us optimize our business and preserve costs.

## **How many people does Mack Molding employ?**

Currently Mack Statesville employs approximately 300 people throughout the levels of our organization. We employ professional-level employees, engineering resources, administrative personnel and technicians, as well as support and entry-level positions to help facilitate our organization's needs.

## **What's the typical day like at Mack Molding? Do you operate 24/7 or go by a more traditional 9-5 setup?**

We operate 24 hours a day for six days a week, and we occasionally add a seventh day to our schedules during busy times to manage overflow. We operate our manufacturing environments with four rotating shifts throughout each week's schedule.

## **On a personal level, what's it like working with EnergyUnited?**

EnergyUnited has been a solid partnership throughout the years. We are a significant consumer of electricity and rely heavily on it to keep our business productive and growing. Anytime we require service from EU, they are quick to respond and efficient in meeting our needs. Other than a few weather-related incidents that we all endure, we have experienced very few interruptions in our power supply. We can always rely on EnergyUnited to help support our business needs through contract negotiations and electrical efficiency improvement projects.

## **Any final thoughts you'd like to add?**

We continue to enjoy working with EnergyUnited in managing our power needs. We like being a member with a level of ownership within their overall family of consumers. We feel that our relationship allows us to get a high level of service and response from EU. They have been very responsive to our needs throughout the past 30 years, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.





# KEEP YOUR

# WALLET COZY

Keeping the heat on at full blast is simply not sustainable—and we mean both for your wallet and the environment. Here’s how you can save some green this season.

- 1 Every degree of temperature change influences the energy in your home by about 8%—which means if you were setting your thermostat at 72°F but can stand to have it at 69°F, you can reduce your heating costs by around 24%!
- 2 Try to remember to lower your thermostat when you leave the house for anything more than several hours. A smart thermostat like Nest can do that for you.
- 3 Leaving a computer on overnight for a year creates enough CO2 to fill a double-decker bus. Make sure you unplug and power down your electronics when you’re not using them.
- 4 Set up a profile on EnergyUnited’s Energy Advisor, our state-of-the-art tool that helps you understand where you could be saving more energy.
- 5 This may sound counterintuitive, but turn your ceiling fan on reverse. Since heat rises, turning a fan on low speed can push the warm air down toward your living spaces. This is especially true if you have tall ceilings.
- 6 Shut the window: A typical window left open overnight in winter will waste enough energy to drive a small car over 35 miles.

These simple tips can make for big savings—for our environment and your finances alike!



## NEVER RUN OUT OF PROPANE

Let us take the worry out of winter and save you money with our free automatic delivery service! Save 10 cents for every gallon with free delivery after hours and the comfort of reliable propane. Call us today to see if you qualify!



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