



For release: Nov. 28, 2018

Contact:

Maureen Moore

Communications Manager

EnergyUnited

704-924-2159

Maureen.moore@energyunited.com

EnergyUnited and the Carolina Panthers celebrate grant award and bright future for seventh graders in Catawba County

The future is looking bright for 1,900 middle school students in Catawba County. Thanks to a \$2,000 Bright Ideas education grant from EnergyUnited, seventh graders at all three public school systems in the county will learn about the energy that powers their world through a new, innovative program.

J.J. Jansen, long snapper with the Carolina Panthers, joined Sir Purr and officials from EnergyUnited earlier this week at Mill Creek Middle School for a school-wide assembly to congratulate seventh grade teacher Beth Elmore and students on winning the grant for their “Watts Up” project. The celebration also recognized Chasity Bolch with Newton-Conover Middle School and Vanessa Lail with Grandview Middle School for their partnership on this project.

“At EnergyUnited, we believe that the power of our community is not bound by school districts, which is why we selected the ‘Watts Up’ project for this award,” said Maureen Moore, communications manager with EnergyUnited. “This multi-district collaboration will give all seventh graders in Catawba County, no matter what public school they go to, the skills they need to explore the field of energy.”

Through this county-wide project, students will build models of power grid landscapes, giving them a hands-on opportunity to learn the ins and outs of how electricity works, while developing basic skills used in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

The grant will go toward the purchase of kits to build the models, which will be shared across approximately 48 seventh grade science classes at eight schools in the county. This collaborative project is a unique partnership between EnergyUnited, Catawba County Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools and Hickory Public Schools. The kits will also be made available upon request to students being home schooled.

The Bright Ideas program is just one example of the 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 more than 20 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 \$11.5 million for more than 11,000 projects, touching the lives of more than 2.2 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.

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.