

For Immediate Release:
August 5, 2015

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TEACHERS: BEING A BRIGHT IDEAS EARLY BIRD COULD WIN YOU \$100

STATESVILLE, N.C. - North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including EnergyUnited, are accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants to fund creative, classroom-based learning projects. The final deadline to apply is Friday, September 18, but teachers who submit their application by the 'early bird' deadline of Friday, August 14 will be entered for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards. These winners will be notified, and recognized on the Bright Ideas website and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas.

"We're proud to support educators who give so much to their students," said Maureen Moore, Communications Manager at EnergyUnited. "With our Bright Ideas grants and early bird prizes, we're excited to offer something in return. We encourage all interested teachers to submit an application by Friday, August 14 for a chance to win an extra \$100."

Teachers can apply for Bright Ideas grants of up to \$2,000, which is part of \$600,000 in Bright Ideas funding that will be awarded to teachers statewide during the 2015-2016 school year. Classroom teachers at qualifying schools in EnergyUnited's 19 counties: Alexander, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stokes, Wilkes and Yadkin can apply for grants individually or as a team. Last year, EnergyUnited awarded over \$40,000 to 27 teachers and plans to fund a similar amount again this year. The grant recipients use the money to fund creative, hands-on classroom projects that fall outside traditional school budgets. The application, grant-writing tips and more information about the Bright Ideas education grant program can be found at www.ncbrightideas.com.

"EnergyUnited believes there's no better way to support education and contribute to our local communities than by partnering with teachers to enhance learning opportunities for our future leaders," Moore said.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$9.6 million in Bright Ideas grants funding for more than 9,200 projects benefitting 1.8 million students.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is an example of the electric cooperatives' commitment to community. North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties. EnergyUnited serves electric members in 19 counties in North Carolina.

About EnergyUnited

EnergyUnited, an innovative and dynamic energy services company, serves more than 124,000 electricity members in 19 North Carolina counties, stretching from Virginia to northern Mecklenburg County and encompassing the fast-growing I-40, I-77, and I-85 corridors. Its service territory includes suburbs surrounding three of North Carolina's largest cities – Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Greensboro. EnergyUnited makes customer satisfaction its highest priority, and its electric customers enjoy one of the highest reliability ratings in the industry.

EnergyUnited also provides propane to more than 25,000 customers in 74 North and South Carolina counties and offers other specialized residential and commercial products and services. Visit EnergyUnited online at www.energyunited.com.

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