

# MEMBER

*From Cedar Island to Cedar Point  
and many places in between*

# News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

January 2006

## Bright Ideas grants fund 28 projects

Area educators have earned more than \$18,000 in funding for special projects through the 2005-2006 Bright Ideas grant program sponsored by Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative.

These innovative teaching ideas will impact more than 6,000 students in Carteret and Craven counties. From math and science to music and literature, educators will enhance learning for youngsters from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Sixty-seven applications for the coveted grants were submitted from 20 schools to help



**CCEC Community Relations Director Bill Ward announces that Julie Perry of Croatan High School was one of two Bright Ideas Grant winners from the school.**

them provide unique learning experiences that would not be funded within regular school budgets. Volunteer judges, including educators and community leaders, screened proposals from the teachers and made their selections. The cooperative was able to fund 28 of those requests, at a maximum of \$1,000. Some proposals were funded with as little as \$100.

The projects come with catchy titles, such as "Newton and the Blimp: To Helium and Beyond" and "Purple Martin's

Majesty," but it was more than just the names that impressed the judges who awarded the grants.

"The projects selected make the most of a relatively small amount of funding," said Carteret-Craven CEO Craig Conrad. "These educators and these schools will enhance learning in all subjects, from physical education to physics, and many of the programs will last for years to come."

The Bright Ideas program was initiated by the state's 27 electric coopera-

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### *on the web*

**Sign up for PowerPay 24's online bill paying and account maintenance.**

**Go to:**

[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)



carteret-craven electric cooperative

## Sound principles help us serve you better

Wouldn't life be nice sometimes if we knew yesterday what we know today, and if we could see into the future and know what tomorrow will bring?

What would we have done differently, individually and collectively, if we could have predicted the extreme volatility of the past year's energy market?

How would we plan for the days and years to come if we had some reasonable assurances about the economy, about new technologies, new regulations and more?

Who knows?

What we *do* know is that we can learn much from the past and keep a close watch on the trends and events of today that are shaping our future. We do that by adhering to sound cooperative business principles that help ensure their financial health and their responsiveness to their member-owners.

### Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who elect board members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. As the energy market fluctuated wildly this past year, we were forced to raise the wholesale power/fuel cost adjustment to meet the unexpected price of electricity we purchased for our members.

"We determined that we must keep pace with that energy market as best we could and raised enough money to meet our wholesale power costs through the end of the year," Conrad said. "While other industries are fighting to keep up, we have been able to reduce our adjustment, which is good news during the heating season."

### Members' Economic Participation

When our members sign up for electric service, the co-op agrees to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. In turn, each member contributes to

the equity of the co-op, which is essential for Carteret-Craven to build, maintain, and upgrade the facilities necessary in providing members with that reliable, economical electric service.

"Electric utilities are capital-intensive industries requiring a large investment in facilities and equipment," Conrad said. "Capital is also needed to keep up with construction during periods of growth and to implement the latest, necessary technology."



**Craig Conrad**  
Exec. VP & CEO

At the end of each operating year, any earnings the cooperative earned above operating expenses are allocated to our members through the capital credit program. The credits are assigned to individual accounts based on each member's electricity usage. After a certain period, a general retirement takes place, and the funds are returned to the members.

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together. During tough times and good times, cooperatives stick together. Carteret-Craven and other cooperatives work closely with one another, providing such things as assistance during major storms, sharing "best practices" or collectively purchasing energy, materials and supplies.

"By combining our needs, we are one of the largest purchasers of wholesale power in the country," Conrad said. "Buying in bulk enables us to command lower prices for energy than we could if we were buying solely for our own needs."

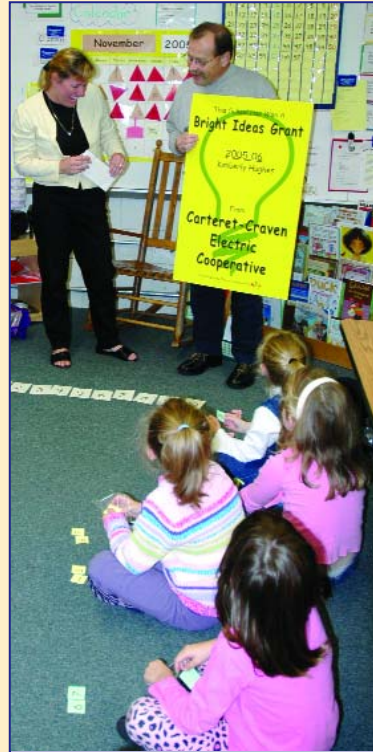
North Carolina's 27 cooperatives also purchase materials, equipment and supplies at competitive prices through a cooperative material supply organization.

## Bright Ideas grants

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 tives 11 years ago to provide teachers with funding to help them provide top-quality instruction. Since then, the cooperatives have awarded Bright Ideas grants totaling almost \$4 million to teachers in grades K-12 across the state. Carteret-Craven has awarded more than \$160,000 over the past 11 years.

To fund all 28 grants

this year, additional money was provided by the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation. The foundation receives funds through Operation RoundUP®, a voluntary program that rounds up each cooperative member's monthly bill to the nearest dollar amount. The funds are used to benefit a variety of worthy causes as determined by a 10-member board of directors.



At right, White Oak Elementary School kindergarten teacher Kim Hughes and her students get excited about funding for their "Big Book in a Bag" reading project.



Havelock High School educator Melissa Murphy and Principal Jeff Murphy, in left photo, share the news of Mrs. Murphy's grant for her "Young Composers" project.



Melissa Vincent is taped by a local television reporter after earning a grant for the school television production program. She began the project with a grant last year.



## Bright students

West Carteret High School senior Michael Miller, at podium, and East Carteret High School senior Monique Washington, center, were guest panelists Nov. 15 at the NCAEC Directors' Conference in New Bern. The two students, shown here with CCEC Director Thom Styron, were campers at the cooperative's first Youth Leadership Weekend in March.

At the director's conference, they shared their views on what cooperatives can do to better communicate and serve the members of the future.

## Carbon monoxide: a leading cause of poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can happen within a matter of minutes and is responsible for more deaths than any other single poison. This odorless, colorless poison can harm slowly in low levels, cause permanent neurological dysfunction in moderate levels or kill in higher levels.

Carbon monoxide is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous.

However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Another major source of CO poisoning is from idling cars.

### Poisoning Symptoms

At moderate levels, you or your family can get severe headaches, become dizzy, mentally confused, nauseated, or faint. You can even die if these levels persist for a long time.

Low levels can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea, and mild headaches, and may have longer term effects on your health. Since many of these symptoms are similar to

those of the flu, food poisoning, or other illnesses, you may not think CO poisoning could be the cause.

### Play it Safe

If you experience symptoms that you think could be from CO poisoning, you should get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and leave the house. Go to the emergency room and tell the physician you suspect CO poisoning, which can be diagnosed by a blood test done soon after exposure.

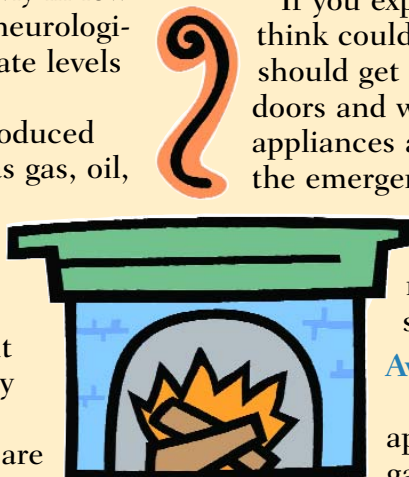
### Avoiding CO Poisoning

Have your fuel-burning appliances -- including oil and gas furnaces, gas water

heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves -- inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make certain that the flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.

Choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside whenever possible, have them properly installed, and maintain them according to manufacturers' instructions.

Source: EPA Indoor Environments Division  
Office of Air and Radiation



### It's not too late...

College-bound high school seniors who live on our lines have until Feb. 28 to apply for one of five scholarships from the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation. For qualifications and a downloadable application, go to [www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop).



Touchstone Energy

## carteret-craven electric cooperative

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