

## Tri-State EMC Honors Local Scholars



From left, Fannin High valedictorian Ramtin Doroodchi with his father, Dr. Hamidreza Doroodchi; Fannin High salutatorian Morgan Blaine with her parents, Sharon and Michael Blaine; Hiwassee Dam valedictorian Chloe Harrelson with her mother, Rebecca Harrelson; Hiwassee Dam salutatorian Gracie Davis with her mother, Jillian Davis; Copper Basin High valedictorian Sawyer O'Neal with his parents, Cheryl and Eric O'Neal; and Copper Basin Salutatorian Kaitlynn Cribbs with her mother, Karen Cribbs.

Each year, Tri-State EMC recognizes the valedictorians and salutatorians from Fannin County High School, Copper Basin High School and Hiwassee Dam High School. Each of these six scholars receives a \$1,000 scholarship from Tri-State EMC to further his or her education.



On May 9, 2019, Tri-State held the annual Honors Night dinner. Students honored included Copper Basin High School valedictorian Sawyer O'Neal and salutatorian Kaitlynn Cribbs; Fannin County High School valedictorian Ramtin Doroodchi and salutatorian Morgan Blaine; and Hiwassee Dam High School valedictorian Chloe Harrelson and salutatorian Gracie Davis.

Cynthia Panter, who retired from the Fannin County School System in June 2017 after 38 years in education, gave an uplifting speech highlighting some of the students' favorite inspirational quotes, which have been instrumen-

tal in helping them achieve their goals thus far. These quotes include:

- **Ramtin Doroodchi:** "The man who has no imagination has no wings." —*Muhammad Ali*
- **Morgan Blaine:** "Believe you can and you're halfway there." —*Theodore Roosevelt*
- **Chloe Harrelson:** "I have dreamt in my life, dreams that have stayed with me ever after, and changed my ideas; they have gone through and through me, like wine through water, and altered the color of my mind. And this is one: I'm going to tell it—but take care not to smile at any part of it." —*Emily Bronte*
- **Gracie Davis:** "You must tell yourself, 'No matter how hard it is, or how hard it gets, I'm going to make it.'" —*Les Brown*
- **Sawyer O'Neal:** "Make America Great Again" —*President Donald Trump*
- **Kaitlynn Cribbs:** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. —*Philippians 4:13*

# Tri-State EMC Celebrates Earth Day

**T**ri-State EMC (TSEMC) held its Earth Day celebration on April 22. The annual event highlights energy conservation.

TSEMC members receive valuable information and have a chance to visit with employees, board members and some local vendors.



TVA commercial and industrial Program Manager Mike Clement, right, hands out information on saving energy.



Students from the Fannin County High School agriculture class gave out flowers and plants to TSEMC members. From left are Tyler Conley, FFA Adviser Cherie White, Christina Griffith, Alivia Chancey, Will Mosley and Wyatt Rogers.



Students Alivia Chancey and Christina Griffith help TSEMC member Helen Quintrell pick out some plants.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

—Source: *energy.gov*





# TVA Partnership Awards STEM Grants to Copper Basin Elementary, West Fannin Elementary

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated (a TVA retiree organization), recently awarded West Fannin Elementary School \$3,500 and Copper Basin Elementary School \$10,000 for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education projects.

The grants are among \$580,000 in competitive STEM grants presented to 161 schools across TVA's seven-state service territory. Educators submitted projects large and small, to further their STEM education initiatives in the classroom.

One of Copper Basin Elementary's projects will focus on understanding the local environment and ecosystem to best grow and maintain a viable environment. The second project is designed to provide the tools for fifth-grade science students to study the local ecosystem.

West Fannin Elementary School's project includes plans to develop a pollinator park.

The competitive grant program provided teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000. Preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA's primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic and career development and community problem-solving. Schools that receive grant funding must get their power from a TVA distributor.



Joining Copper Basin Elementary School fifth-graders for the awarding of \$10,000 in grants are, from left, TVA Customer Service Engineer Tanya Jacobs, Interim Principal Beth Dlugokinski, TSEMC Information Technology Manager David Lewis and teacher Gerome Smith.

"The goal of the program was to help further STEM education across the valley," says Rachel Crickmar, TVA Community Relations Program Manager. "We knew this program would be popular and competitive, and now we're are looking forward to seeing the impact these projects have."

A full list of the grant recipients can be found at [www.tvastem.com](http://www.tvastem.com).

The Tennessee Valley Authority provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving nearly 10 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity.

In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.



Joining West Fannin Elementary School students for the check presentation are, from left, TVA Customer Service Engineer Tanya Jacobs, Tri-State EMC Information Technology Manager David Lewis and teacher Mary Jean Pace.

## Tri-State EMC

2310 Blue Ridge Drive  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513  
(706) 492-3251

Find us online:  
[www.tsemc.net](http://www.tsemc.net)

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Mon-Fri, 7:15 a.m.– 4 p.m.  
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Tri-State Electric Membership Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned power cooperative providing electricity to the people of Cherokee County, NC; Polk County, TN; and Fannin County, GA.

# Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Awards Scholarships to Deserving Students

Scholarships recently awarded to vocational students at four local schools are a great example of how Operation Round Up funds are used. Each of these students received a \$500 scholarship:

- **Copper Basin High School:**  
Kaitlynn Cribbs
- **Fannin County High School:**  
Daniel Henderson
- **Hiwassee Dam High School:**  
Jonathan McNabb
- **Mountain Area Charter High School:**  
Emily E. Smith

In 2013, the Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Board decided to grant one vocational student from each of the four schools a \$500 scholarship. The board allows each school's scholarship committee to choose the recipient.

All the money collected through Operation Round Up goes to nonprofit groups, charities and school systems in the Tri-State EMC service area. The money comes from Tri-State EMC members who round their bill up to the next dollar. Once a month, the Tri-State EMC Foundation board considers grant requests and distributes the money.

Thank you to all the TSEMC members who participate in Operation Round Up who made this scholarship possible.



Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Foundation board member Sherry Hicks, right, presents the scholarship to Kaitlynn Cribbs.



Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Foundation board member Stephanie Murphy, left, presents the scholarship to Jonathan McNabb.



P.O. Box 68 • McCaysville, GA 30555  
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