JACKSON ENERGY





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Off and running

Jackson Energy invests in education

his issue of *Kentucky Living* has an unmistakable racing theme, from Kim Perry's Derby Festival art to a feature on Derby-winning jockey Brian Hernandez Jr. But as the flowers bloom and warm weather returns, another kind of race is shaping up as well. High school students across the commonwealth are graduating. Before you know it, they'll be off and running—to careers, to further education and beyond.

Education has always been a priority for Jackson Energy. In fact, it's one of the seven cooperative principles that distinguish the cooperative model from other types of businesses. We are deeply invested in advancing education, training and information, not only for our employees, but also for our members and for the next generation.

At Jackson Energy, we believe in investing in our community's future through supporting education programs. Each year, we send promising high school students on the Frankfort and Washington, D.C., youth tours, where they learn about government, leadership and the cooperative business model alongside peers from across the nation. These students return with expanded horizons and fresh perspectives on what's possible for their futures.









We're also proud to offer scholarship opportunities that help ease the financial burden of higher education and vocational training for families in our service area. These scholarships represent our commitment to fostering local talent and helping students achieve their dreams without the weight of excessive student debt. The Kentucky Chapter of Women in Rural Electrification, or WIRE, also offers three \$1,000 scholarships to Kentucky college students each year. To learn more about this opportunity, visit kyelectric.coop and search "WIRE."

Beyond financial support, our team participates in career fairs at local schools, sharing insights about the career paths available within the electric cooperative network. From lineworkers to engineers, accountants to communicators, we showcase the breadth of opportunities available right here in Kentucky.

Whether it's teaching electrical safety or explaining how the grid works, these hands-on experiences spark curiosity and learning.

As we celebrate this season of achievement and new beginnings, we want to extend hearty congratulations to all graduating seniors in our community. Jackson Energy is proud to play a small role in powering your educational journey, and we remain committed to supporting lifelong learning opportunities for all our members. Your race is just beginning—and we can't wait to see where you go.



Lisa Baker, Editor Published by Jackson Energy

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WORKING FOR YOU



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This May, take the time to plug into safety

ay is Electrical Safety Month, and Jackson Energy will be sharing safety tips and reminders throughout the month to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at Jackson Energy. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, Jackson Energy is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

Our responsibility to you

Jackson Energy's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we provide safety demonstrations in local schools and at community events. We frequently provide electrical safety content in *Kentucky Living* and your local newspaper, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity now and well into the future.

As the president and CEO of Jackson Energy, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety—so please take a moment to plug into safety. Visit jacksonenergy.com/safety-tips or our social media pages for important safety tips. Or, visit esfi.org for additional tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.

By President & CEO Carol Wright



Student leaders visit Frankfort

early 100 high school students representing Kentucky's electric cooperatives gathered at Kentucky's Capitol on March 13 for the Frankfort Youth Tour, a program offering rising student leaders a personal understanding of American history, civic engagement and their role as citizens and members of electric cooperatives.

Lt. Gov. Jacquline Coleman welcomed students before they toured the Capitol. "Find your passion—and once you find your passion, get involved," she told students, encouraging them to think of themselves as leaders.

After touring the Capitol, students observed the Senate and House chambers while they were in session.

During a lunch hosted by the Kentucky Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour delegation and the Rural Electric Cooperative Caucus, students met with elected officials and co-op leaders and learned about the role of co-ops in shaping Kentucky's energy future.

Sen. Robin Webb and Rep. Wade Williams, two of the co-chairs of the caucus, spoke with students about the importance of electric co-ops in rural communities. Students asked thoughtful



Jackson Energy delegates visit the state Capitol during the Frankfort Youth Tour. From front left are Katie Gilliam, Laurel County; Makayleigh Ward, Lee County; and Hailey Judd, Jackson County. From back left are Kristopher Gibson, Clay County; Charity Abner, Jackson County; Miley Witt, Jackson County; Justin Asher, Laurel County; and Caden Peters, Laurel County. Photo: Tim Webb

questions on grid reliability, environmental concerns and the legislative process.

For the 10th consecutive year, in conjunction with the Frankfort Youth Tour, Kentucky's co-ops partnered with Secretary of State Michael Adams to launch the 2025 Co-ops Vote initiative—a nonpartisan effort to boost voter turnout in rural communities across the country.

Since the inception of the youth tour program, co-ops have sponsored more than 1,800 Kentucky high school students in Washington, D.C., and even more in Frankfort. Jackson Energy is proud to invest in our future leaders.

STEM Goes Red

he American Heart Association hosted its STEM Goes Red event at Eastern Kentucky University's Manchester Campus and Jackson Energy was proud to be one of the sponsors. The goal of the event was to encourage young women from local high school districts to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

STEM Goes Red featured breakout sessions throughout the day on topics ranging from heart health to transportation to electricity—where employees of Jackson Energy assisted students as they built their own robots while learning the concept of energy and how it flows.

Students representing Clay, Lee, Owsley, Jackson and surrounding counties had the opportunity to explore hands-on activities and hear from local professional women who are proven leaders in our communities.

The young women in attendance were encouraged by all to try new adventures and not let anything hold them back from following their dreams.









Investing in education



Representing Jackson Energy at Colony Elementary School's Career Fair are Member Relations Coordinator Brent Jackson, left, and Purchasing Agent Jim Ball. Photo: Colony Elementary staff



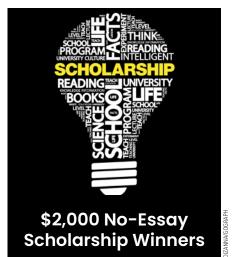
Jackson Energy Data/AMI Technician Jessica Grimes, left, and Data/Billing Technician Megan Baker participate in East Bernstadt Elementary School's Reality Store. Photo: Abby Carter



Member Service Representative Michelle Gabbard, left, and District Office Supervisor Renita Fox volunteer at Owsley County High School's Reality Store. Photo: Owsley County High staff



Representing Jackson Energy at the STEM Goes Red event in Richmond were Executive Administrative Assistant Lisa Baker, left, and VP of Corporate Services April Renner. Photo: CHI Saint Joseph Health staff



Camie Goins

Clay County High School

Luke Hughes

Estill County High School

Keagan Ward

Jackson County High School

Preslee Cundiff

Lee County High School

Gavin Gilley

North Laurel High School

Arabella Bishop

Owsley County High School

Matthew Owens

Rockcastle County High School

Taitum Harris

South Laurel High School

Arraya Salyers

At-Large Category

Scholarship deadline approaching



Jackson Energy Cooperative is proud to offer one full scholarship for the Lineman Training Center at Somerset Community College.

For more information and to apply online, visit Jackson Energy's website at: jacksonenergy.com/scholarship-programs

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 30, 2025