

# NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 12/15



# Merry Christmas

from everyone at Illinois Electric Co-op!

## CEO Program to Expand to Pike, Greene, and Calhoun in 2016



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

In fall of 2016, the CEO, Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, program will expand to Pike, Greene, and Calhoun counties. The program is currently active in Morgan and Scott counties.

CEO gives high school seniors an opportunity to run their own business and is a non-traditional, hands-on course in entrepreneurship for high school seniors in rural areas. The program, originally founded in Effingham, Illinois, is now offered in several states, with students across the Midwest learning how to own and operate a business.

The co-op is a founding sponsor and has partnered with other businesses and foundations in the service territory to offer the program. Participating students meet for 90 minutes each day where they work on building, facilitating, and directing a business of their own. Meetings are held off-site at local businesses where mentoring connections are established with local business owners and experts. Students hear from 50-60 guest speakers per year.

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## Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Todd Burrus of Burrus Seed Farms speaking to the Morgan-Scott CEO students at the Burrus office in Jacksonville.

Business sponsors from within the community fund the class. The class hosts a tradeshow at the end of the school year for the student-run businesses to showcase their products and hard work.

Students in the program receive two-credit hours and the co-op is currently working with Lewis and Clark, Lincoln Land, and John Wood Community Colleges to offer dual credit.

The goal of the program is to encourage students to spark local economic development and stay within the communities they were raised. Students are made aware of the business connections and potential through the opportunities provided by the program.

By providing the tools, leadership, and entrepreneurial training, the program shows students how to establish and grow a business, and how local connections can help aid in the process.

"The CEO program is the most intensive youth entrepreneurship program I have ever seen," said Shawn Rennecker, Director of Economic Development at the co-op. "Through the program, students will be able to make the appropriate connections and contacts to be able to set themselves up for success in the future."

The co-op's involvement comes from a realization that the future vitality of the service territory is dependent on growth. As youth are a key part of the future of our service territory, this program creates a long term investment in our local communities and the young people who call it home. Not only will it help create entrepreneurial-minded students, but also it is hoped to reverse the trend of leaving our territory in search of other opportunities.

If your child will be a senior in fall of 2016 and is interested in the program, have him or her speak with the guidance counselor. The application process for the program will begin soon.

To learn more out more about the program, please visit one of the following websites:

- [morganscottceo.com](http://morganscottceo.com)
- [greenecalhounceo.com](http://greenecalhounceo.com)
- [pikeceo.com](http://pikeceo.com)



# Ten 2016 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

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Illinois Electric Cooperative has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2016 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2016 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

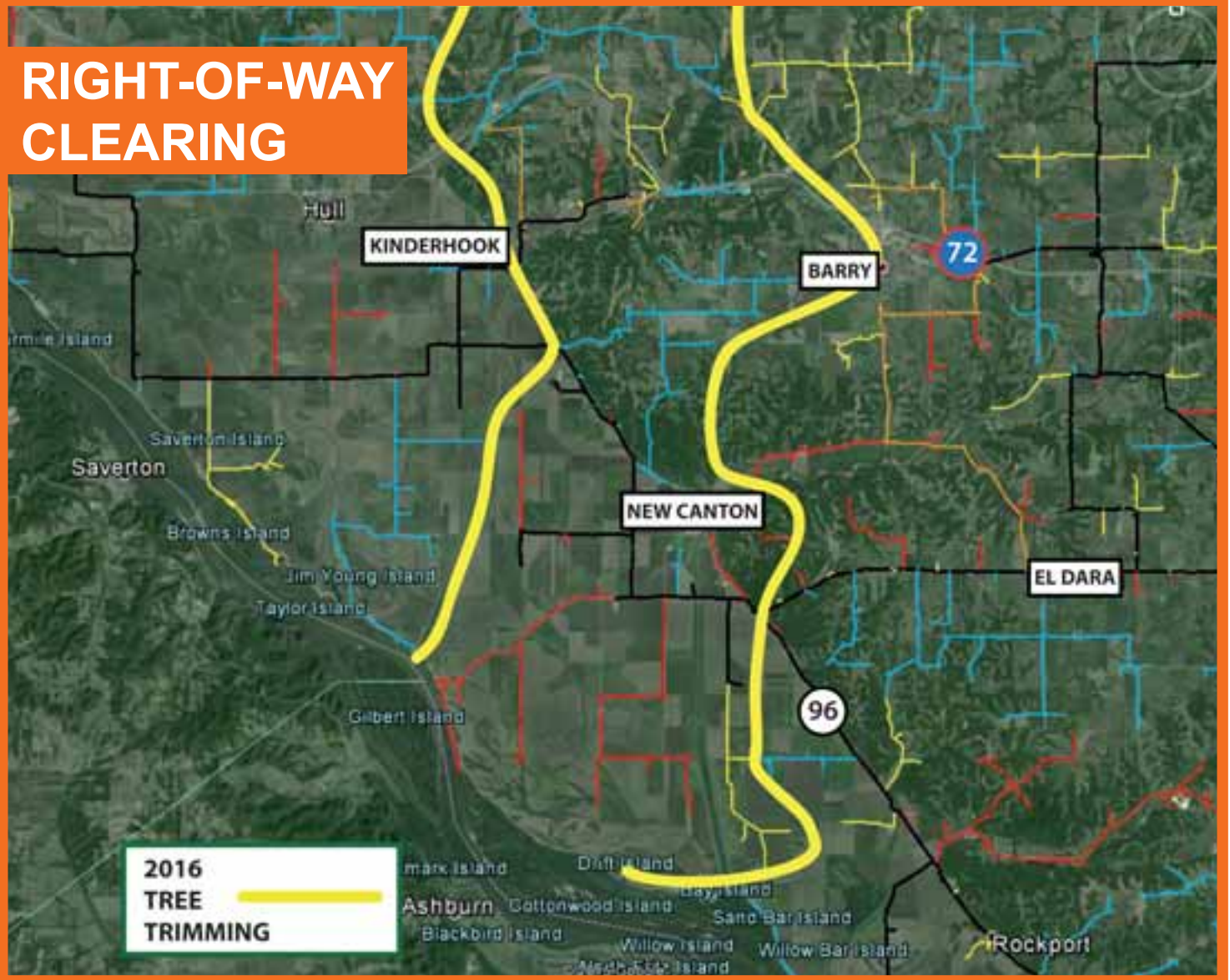
Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$2,000 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Robert Brown, Board President. “The co-op and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Ashley Graham, (217) 243-8705. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com).

## RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING



Our forestry crews will soon begin right-of-way clearing in the yellow highlighted areas shown above. These operations consist of tree pruning, brush clearing, and/or tree removal. We will follow up with spraying in the area the following year.

For more information on right-of-way-clearing, visit our website at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com) and click on Tree Trimming under the Services tab. If you have any questions, concerns, or requests, please contact Roger Fletcher at (217) 742-3128 ext.140.

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