



CEO: The Next Generation

North Greene High School Senior Bridget Schutz in this year's Greene-Calhoun CEO program.

With school back in session, the CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) programs are in full swing. The Morgan-Scott, Greene-Calhoun, and Pike programs consist of 54 students representing more than a dozen schools in our service territory. CEO's goal is

to teach students life, business, and leadership skills while forming a close bond with their community.

"This year's off to a great start. Number of students participating this year is high and it's great to have so many in the Greene-Calhoun class

continued...



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Winchester High School Senior Brody Gregory in this year's Morgan-Scott CEO program.

after a year off," said Jennifer Sellars, the Morgan-Scott and Greene-Calhoun CEO program facilitator. Students in CEO learn and practice valuable skills, such as public speaking, crafting a business plan, and ultimately launching a product or service-based business of their own.

First-year facilitator of the Pike CEO program, Colin Kutchy, says he's learning a lot, just like his students. "I'm really enjoying getting to share my experience in the business world with the students and learning from them as well."

The co-op helped start the Morgan-Scott CEO program nine years ago, with Greene-Calhoun and Pike programs following two years later. The goal: to help retain young people in our service territory by introducing them to the opportunities right in their backyards.

As part of this, students in the CEO program hear from more than 50 local professionals and business owners from their communities who share their career journeys, experiences, and lessons learned along the way. These connections help students develop professional networks, which sometimes lead to internship opportunities and ongoing mentorships.

"The CEO programs in our area have been very popular and received great support from our communities. Through this program, local students are gaining a better understanding of the region and the opportunities it can offer. We have a growing number of CEO Alumni that have or are choosing to come back to the region to live and work," said Shawn Rennecker, Economic Development Director and chairman of the Pike CEO board.

Calhoun Fiber Update

Work in Hardin continues as the co-op and contractor crews enter phase three of construction. We continue our construction build-out in the county in locations based on our easements and the make-ready construction to our existing electric distribution system.

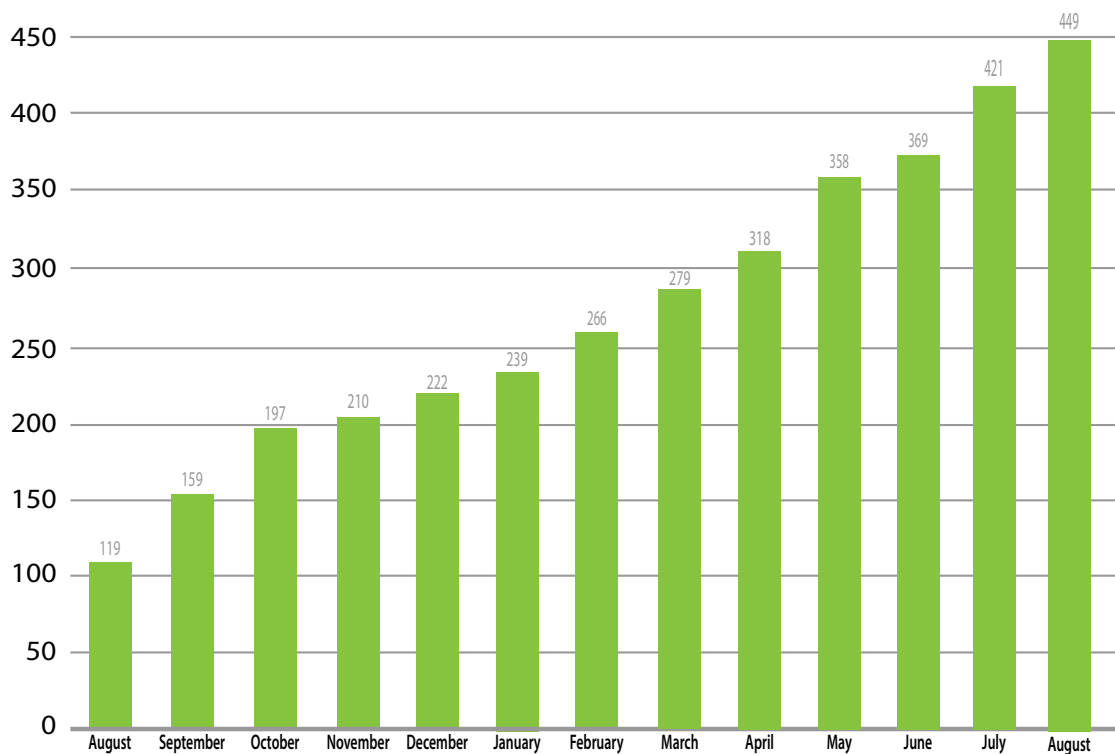
Batchtown construction will be starting this month. We will continue to share updates on the Calhoun Fiber Facebook page to everyone informed.

Calhoun Fiber is a multi-year project. Once all is said and done, there will

be 421 miles of fiber optic cable ran in Calhoun. Along with the significant amount of construction to be completed, easements are critical to the project. Easements can delay construction significantly. If you have not yet signed an easement, please do so and encourage your neighbor to sign one as well.

If you have any questions, we have an extensive Frequently Asked Questions section on CalhounFiber.com. We can also be reached at 1-800-468- 4732.

Calhoun Fiber Connections



Fifteen 2023 IEC Memorial Scholarships available



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 15 scholarships in 2023 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 15 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Nine scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member. A 10th scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric cooperative member, employee or director.

The 15th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Children 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 this scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says Randy Long, General Manager. "Illinois Electric Cooperative and the other 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 and investing in them through programs like this one."

The deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2022. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Jennifer Sellars. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.

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