



Egyptian Electric News

1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • eeca.coop

EECA supports Southern Illinois students and teachers through 2024-25 classroom grants!

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) is proud to spotlight the winners of its Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for the 2024-25 school year. Ten educators from schools across the EECA service area applied for and received \$500 grants to fund innovative projects aimed at enhancing learning opportunities for their students.

From expanding libraries to creating hands-on STEM experiences, these projects highlight the passion and creativity of local teachers. The 2024 recipients include:

- **Mindy Allen James, Marissa Jr./Sr. High School**
Project: Engaging Novels for High School Students
 Grant funds will purchase popular modern novels to inspire a love of reading among students.
- **Maggie Biffar-Sabo, Coulterville High School**
Project: Coulterville Ag & FFA Greenhouse
 Funding will support greenhouse upgrades and new garden supplies.
- **Travis Clayton, Carbondale Middle School**
Project: Makernauts' Next Gen Printer
 Funding will purchase a new 3D printer to enhance a program helping students improve math skills through hands-on design.
- **Sharon Fry, Murphysboro Middle School**
Project: History Comes Alive
 Students will explore ancient civilizations using virtual reality headsets, bringing history to life.
- **Kelsie Grant, Giant City Elementary School**
Project: The Speech Station
 A new half-moon table will allow for better student engagement during speech therapy sessions.
- **Kim Howard, DeSoto Grade School**
Project: Expanding the Library for Lifelong Readers
 Grant funds will be used to update the junior high library with engaging books designed to strengthen students' connection to reading.
- **Emerick Neitzer, Brehm Preparatory School**
Project: Workshop Revival
 New wood shop tools will support a class designed to teach practical, lifelong skills.

■ **Cheryl A. McCann, Trico Elementary School**

Project: Classroom Listening Center

An expanded audio library will support auditory learners by providing an alternative way to access books, enhancing comprehension and engagement.



Cheryl A. McCann, Trico Elementary School



Sara Shepherd, St. John's Lutheran School, Red Bud



Sharon Fry, Murphysboro Middle School

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1732 Finney Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone
844-759-3977

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
www.eeca.coop

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- By phone at 844-759-3977, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale

■ Sara Shepherd, St. John's Lutheran School, Red Bud

Project: Life Skills in the Lab

Grant funds will purchase garden tools and food preservation supplies to support a science-based life skills curriculum.

■ Amanda Wetzler, Red Bud Elementary School

Project: Robotics Club

A new robotics kit will bring STEM-based learning to life, providing students with practical experience in coding, mechanical engineering and problem-solving through a dedicated robotics program.

EECA is honored to support these initiatives and reinforce our commitment to the communities we serve. As a not-for-profit electric utility, we prioritize investing in the future of southern Illinois by equipping tomorrow's leaders with the resources and skills they need to thrive. These grants are awarded annually, so if you know a school or teacher who might benefit, encourage them to visit our website at eeca.coop for more information and apply next year!



Amanda Wetzler, Red Bud Elementary School



Emerick Neitzer, Brehm Preparatory School



Maggie Biffar-Sabo, Coulterville High School



Kelsie Grant, Giant City Elementary School



Mindy Allen James, Marissa Jr./Sr. High School



Travis Clayton, Carbondale Middle School



Kim Howard, DeSoto Grade School



OUR 24/7 PAY-BY-PHONE NUMBER IS CHANGING!



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Starting January 1, 2025, our 24/7 pay-by-phone number will be updated.

New Number (Effective January 1):

 **(855) 939-3675**

You may also continue to call our office at

 **(800) 606-1505**

and press 2 to pay-by-phone at any time.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

If you dial directly into our pay-by-phone system to make a payment, please reprogram the new number into your phone. As always, members can reach our office at (800) 606-1505 and press 2 for pay-by-phone.

BLOOD DRIVE



Tuesday, February 6
10am - 3pm

at Egyptian Electric Cooperative
1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL.

MEMBER PRIZES



Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

EECA'S UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES



Wednesday
JANUARY 1
New Year's Day



Monday
JANUARY 20
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day



Monday
FEBRUARY 17
President's Day

EECA linemen help restore power in Georgia After Hurricane Helene

This team of EECA linemen traveled to Georgia to assist with power restoration, after Hurricane Helene left over 1.5 million people without electricity. Joining thousands of linemen from across the country, they worked long hours in challenging conditions, sleeping on cots and replacing damaged poles and infrastructure to restore power to co-op members. **Trysta C. Guebert**

As a cooperative, one of our founding principles is "Cooperation among Cooperatives." We know



Pictured L to R: Tyler Atchison, Jared Bastien, Zach Doan, Aaron Richards, Ronnie Gill, Andy Ahner, Cody Lee. Matt McElroy not pictured.

firsthand that if southern Illinois were to experience extensive storm damage, linemen from neighboring states would be there to help, just

as we were honored to assist our fellow cooperatives in Georgia. We're incredibly proud of their efforts to help others in a time of need!

Make a positive impact in Southern Illinois by joining Operation Round Up!



Embark on a mission to make a positive impact in southern Illinois this new year by joining our efforts to support charitable organizations. By rounding up your monthly bill through our Operation Round Up program, you contribute to a collective effort to provide financial assistance to local organizations. On average, members contribute just \$0.50 monthly and never more than \$11.88 annually. **Karen B. Galant**

Here's how it works: voluntarily opt into the program, allowing Egyptian Electric to round up your bill to the next whole dollar, flat



one dollar or any amount desired. Your monthly statement reflects the Operation Round Up amount, with the year-to-date total, which is tax-deductible. These funds go to our Egyptian Electric Charitable Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, with 100% of collected funds directly supporting community organizations.

In just three years, Operation Round Up has supported initiatives that provide southern Illinois children with backpacks and school supplies, as well as toys and books on Christmas morning. It has also contributed vital funds to a local animal shelter and organizations that provide meals to those in need.

Organizations can apply for funds year-round, and donations are awarded quarterly. **Janice E. Paul**

To sign up or learn more, visit eeca.coop/roundup, check the box on your bill, or call or email us. Members can also mail in the form (found on page 6) to our office to enroll. Your consideration and participation make a difference — thank you!

