

Teens Discover the Cooperative Difference

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative had the pleasure of sponsoring 12 area high school students at the 2014 WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) held July 16–18 at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls campus. The YLC is co-sponsored by UW–River Falls and Wisconsin’s electric cooperatives. This year’s teens were from five area high schools: Baylie Discher and Mikaela Glodowski, Rosholt High School; Amanda Muscha and Abigail Kapitz, Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School; Megan Mazemke, Michelle Ellie, and Emily Bonikowske, Iola-Scandinavia High School; John Holtz and Austin Wagner, Little Wolf (Manawa) High School; Nick Blum, Rebekah Peplinski, and Jolene Peterson, Amherst High School.

This summer, YLC celebrated 51 years! More than 145 students and 18 chaperones representing the 19 electric cooperatives in Wisconsin attended this year’s three-day event. The congress offers attendees the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and learn a little about cooperatives. Through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building exercises, students were exposed to a variety of real-life issues and given the opportunity to identify and explore their leadership potential. In addition



All dressed up for the etiquette dinner—(front row, l-r) Amanda Muscha and Abby Kapitz, Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School; Baylie Discher and Mikaela Glodowski, Rosholt High School; (middle row) Megan Mazemke and Emily Bonikowske, Iola-Scandinavia High School; Rebekah Peplinski and Jolene Peterson, Amherst High School; (back row) John Holtz and Austin Wagner, Little Wolf (Manawa) High School; Nick Blum, Amherst High School; and Michelle Ellie, Iola-Scandinavia High School.

to the hands-on workshops, nationally recognized speakers motivated attendees and gave them skills and ideas to bring back to their communities and schools as strong leaders.

Craig Hillier returned with his high-energy “Breakthrough” program. Also returning was AJ the Animated Illusionist, who amazed his audience while delivering an important message. At the banquet, students learned the fine points of formal dinner etiquette. Chad Pegracke, founder and president of Living Lands & Waters, was the featured speaker, giving an amazing leadership presentation on how determination, hard work, and persistence pay off.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative would like to wish David Erickson the best on his retirement. Thank you for your many years serving as the youth education coordinator at Cooperative Network. You will be missed.

Although the program is very educational, the focus is on having fun. It’s an excellent way for students to make new friends from around the state and in the

process make lasting memories.

The entire program is planned, and in many cases presented, by a Youth Board selected by their peers. The Youth Board selected this year plans next year’s congress. This year five of our students interviewed to be on the board, which was wonderful. One of our students, Austin Wagner, was chosen to represent Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on the 2014–15 Youth Board. Congratulations, Austin!

Here is what some of the kids had to say about their YLC experience:

“Being able to attend the Youth Congress was a great experience. It was nice being with other people who had the same ambitions and desire to learn and succeed. Not only did the Youth Congress teach me that I can do anything, but I also learned about cooperatives. When I first went, I didn’t know much about them, but now I know what they are all about. They’re about helping the members, just like when they first started. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to experience something like this.—Emily Bonikowske, Iola-Scandinavia High School

“First of all thank you so much for this opportunity. It really opened my eyes to what a leader really is and what I could improve on! Before attending this congress I had no idea



Students participating in one of the many teambuilding activities at Youth Leadership Congress.



what a cooperative did or how it affected me. I learned that cooperatives are democratic, all about giving back to the community and so much more. At this congress it was so easy to get involved and I hope everything I learned will help me break out of my shell this year during school! Being a leader is something I will strive to be.—Amanda Muscha, Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

“I appreciate the opportunity that all of you at the co-op gave me in sponsoring me to go to the Youth Leadership Congress this year. Without that, I would never have made the Youth Board, and would have never been able to represent this great cooperative that not only supports my family, but many others as well. So on behalf of myself and my friends who you sponsored, thank you. I look forward to representing all of you in D.C. and for the next year!—Austin Wagner, Little Wolf (Manawa) High School

“Thank you for letting me go to Youth Leadership Congress. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. I had a great time meeting new people and participating in the activities. My favorite part was the guest speaker that cleaned up the Mississippi River.—Nick Blum, Amherst High School

“I had so much fun at the Youth Leadership Congress. I met so many new people and learned many different things about cooperatives. I learned that cooperatives give back to the community and they're also completely consumer owned. Thank you so much for sponsoring me and allowing me to attend this enjoyable conference. I greatly appreciate the opportunity you have provided me with.—Bekah Peplinski, Amherst High School

“Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go and be a part of the YLC! It was a blast. I thoroughly enjoyed the activities that allowed me to socialize and befriend other teens around the great state of Wisconsin. I acquired new information I never knew about the cooperatives. I had no idea how much of a role they play in the community! Without them, farms like my own would be much less successful. An aspect I never knew about cooperatives: their generosity to people/

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From Here to There

By Michael Wade,
President and CEO

Summer is slowly slipping away and fall is on the horizon. Having spent my first full summer in Wisconsin, I can honestly say it was one of my best ever. Your cooperative is having an active summer as we perform various maintenance and construction projects, right-of-way clearing and brushing, as well as offer educational programs to our young members.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of the youth within our communities and are pleased that we are able to assist so many with scholarships for college. In addition, we had a large number of students participate in this year's Youth Leadership Congress. This is an excellent way for students to learn more about the cooperative model and develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

We are making strong progress with our vegetation management program. We are currently 72 percent complete with our maintenance clear-

ing and should complete all work by the early fall. Thanks to all of you who allow us the necessary access to perform this valued part of our operations. When we are able to properly trim and spray, it helps keep limbs out of our lines and it helps our crews gain access to perform needed maintenance.

As expected, we are seeing much debate regarding the EPA's new proposal that would require states to reduce carbon emissions (CO₂) by 30 percent by 2030. As you may recall, Wisconsin's requirements will be more strenuous in that we must reduce emissions by 34 percent by 2030. We have no doubt that this will be an immense challenge and has the potential to cause electric rates to increase. We continue to monitor this on your behalf and will work with our state and national organizations and fellow cooperatives to keep your electric energy affordable. If you have not already done so, please visit www.action.coop and www.tellepa.com to let your voice be heard concerning the new EPA regulations.

In next month's magazine, we will announce the details of our member appreciation breakfast to be held at our office in Rosholt in October. We are developing plans for this event now and hope to see each of you there. ■

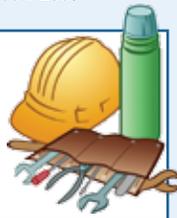
Dates to Remember in September

Big Falls Bowhunters Free Corn Roast

Sunday, August 31

Big Falls. Parade at noon. Food stands, raffles, free corn, games. Live music throughout the day. For more information call 715-754-2359.

Office Closed
Monday,
September 1
in honor of
Labor Day



5th Annual Taste of Tigerton Apple Fest

Saturday, September 27

10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Tigerton Legion Park, Tigerton. Apple pies baked and unbaked for sale, demonstrations, vendors, contests. For more information call 715-535-2110.

“The 100 Best Things About Wisconsin”

7th Annual Juried Art Show

Saturday, September 20, continuing Saturday/Sunday through October 12, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. A juried art show with painting, prints, photographs, three-dimensional art, and textiles by Wisconsin artists. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal Street, Wittenberg. Joins the Miles of Art tour October 4 and 5, open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to www.wallofswittenberg.com.

To submit your community events email brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative



Dutch Bloecher



Cody Buttles



Trevor Buza



Blade Cameron



Alex Cole



Hailey Dexter



Jamie Docka



Gabrielle Fowler



Sophia Erdmann



Joe Fochs



Hunter Gruenwald



PJ Hayes



Allison Lockery



Jayden Magee



Tyler Marquardt



Savannah Mauritz



Lindsey Meis



Kayla Romatowski



Lyza Schmidt



Alexi Smith

Congratulations to our 2014 Scholarship Recipients

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is proud to announce that it has awarded \$18,500 in scholarships to these outstanding students. CWEC is committed to helping our young members continue their education after high school. Scholarship monies come from the Operation Roundup program, which is funded by our members. We would like to thank our members who participate in the Operation Roundup program; to date, almost \$350,000 of Operation funds have been paid to worthwhile charitable and educational purposes.

First-time Scholarship Winners

Brett Allred, Iola, son of Steven and Vicki Allred, UW–Stevens Point, web design and digital media

Payton Bailey, Tigerton, daughter of Patrick and Mindy Bailey, UW–Green Bay, undecided

Hailey Bernas, Stevens Point, daughter of Jim and Cindy Bernas, UW–Madison, elementary education and special education

Dutch Bloecher, Tigerton, son of Jack and Kelley Bloecher, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, electrical power distribution

Cody Buttles, Ogdensburg, son of Phil and Cindy Buttles, UW–Eau Claire, nursing

Trevor Buza, Custer, son of Don and Leslie Buza, UW–Stevens Point, athletic trainer

Blade Cameron, Birnamwood, son of Steven and Rebecca Cameron, Northcentral Technical College, physical therapist

Marshall Christensen, Custer, son of Paul and Joyce Christensen, UW–Oshkosh, nursing

Hailey Dexter, Wittenberg, daughter of Robert and Renee Kolb, UW–Oshkosh, nursing

Jamie Docka, Amherst, son of Jim and Danita Docka, Michigan Tech, computer engineering

Sophia Erdmann, Iola, daughter of Aaron and Elizabeth Erdmann, Fox Valley Technical College, business management and entrepreneurship

Joe Fochs, Mosinee, son of Curt and Karen Fochs, UW–Platteville, engineering

Gabrielle Fowler, Tigerton, daughter of Donnie and Donna Lehman, Midstate Technical College–Wisconsin Rapids, cosmetology

Hunter Gruenwald, Iola, son of Brett and Liane Gruenwald, Ripon College, sports medicine



Rachel Smith



Travis Szeligowski



Karina Welch



Erin Wick



Mitchell Yenter

Jacob Hansen, Iola, son of Rick and Tracy Hansen, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, electrical power distribution

PJ Hayes, Iola, son of Philip and Karen Hayes, UW–La Crosse, business

Sawyer Hintz, Scandinavia, son of Corey and Dawn Hintz, Marquette University, engineering

Kyle Honken, Iola, son of Matthew and Cari Honken, UW–La Crosse, undecided

Jamie Kirschling, Custer, daughter of Diane Kirschling, UW–Milwaukee, nursing

Shelby Ligman, Stevens Point, daughter of Kevin and Lynn Ligman, UW–Stevens Point, medical technology

Allison Lockery, Rosholt, daughter of Chris Lockery and Melissa Kieliszewski, UW–La Crosse, education

Jayden Magee, Eland, son of Dennis and Laura Magee, North Central Technical College–Antigo, wood technology

Kathrine Makovec, Iola, daughter of John and Mary Makovec, UW–Eau Claire, biology and communicative disorders

Tyler Marquardt, Tigerton, son of Otto and Lisa Marquardt, UW–La Crosse, physical therapy

Savannah Mauritz, Tigerton, daughter of Mitch and Connie Mauritz, North Central Technical College, health care business services

Lindsey Meis, Custer, daughter of Gerald and Colleen Meis, UW–Green Bay, undecided

Trace Miller, Bowler, son of Greg and Linda Miller, UW–Stevens Point, undecided

Alexandra Niemczyk, Custer, daughter of Frank and Tricia Niemczyk, K-State University, business

Morgan Olson, Bowler, daughter of Jeff and Joan Olson, UW–Oshkosh, business

Autumn Pingel, Tigerton, daughter of LeGrace Pingel, UW–Green Bay, psychology and human development

Kayla Romatowski, Mosinee, daughter of Sue Romatowski, Viterbo University, nursing

Quentin Rondeau, Wittenberg, son of Mike and Brenda Rondeau, Fox Valley Technical College, diesel equipment mechanic

Lyza Schmidt, Stevens Point, daughter of Ruth Schmidt, Fox Valley Technical College, interior design

Alexi Smith, Iola, daughter of Bryan and Linda Smith, UW–Eau Claire, undecided

Rachel Smith, Custer, daughter of Jason and Ann Fletcher, UW–Madison, biology



Morgen Spees, Scandinavia, daughter of Bill Spees and Amy Powers, UW–Madison, undecided
Travis Szeligowski, Stevens Point, son of Matt and Tammy Szeligowski, UW–La Crosse, chemistry
Austin Trinko, Bowler, son of Lance and Wendy Trinko, Northcentral Technical College, welding fabrication and robotics
Robert Uttecht, Jr., Eland, son of Bob and Paula Uttecht, UW–Madison, public relations/marketing
Nicholas Wavruk, Iola, son of Kenneth and Karen Wavruk, UW–Oshkosh, kinesiology
Karina Welch, Iola, daughter of Tim and Mary Welch, UW–Stevens Point, elementary special education
Scott Wedemayer, Tigerton, Scott and Brenda Wedemayer, Fox Valley Technical College, diesel mechanic equipment
Erin Wick, Bowler, son of Kevin and Susan Wick, UW–La Crosse, radiation
Mitchell Yenter, Amherst Jct., son of Paul and Karen Yenter, UW–Platteville, engineering

Students who have been awarded the scholarship previously (not pictured):

Hannah Bonikowske, Iola, daughter of John and Michelle Bonikowske, Marquette University, biomedical sciences; **Lindsay Brandenburg**, Mosinee, daughter of John and Lisa Brandenburg, University of Northwestern–St. Paul, Minnesota, molecular biology; **Matt Ellie**, Iola, son of Greg and Mary Ellie, Madison Media Institute, music and recording technology; **Ashley Geier**, Birnamwood, daughter of Dave and Lynn Geier, UW–Stevens Point, health and wellness management; **Leah Glodowski**, Rosholt, daughter of Paul and Lois Glodowski, Carroll University, biochemistry; **Matthew Groshek**, Custer, son of Perry and Kathy Gorshek, UW–Platteville, mechanical engineering; **Maxwell Hauser**, Iola, son of David and Elizabeth Hauser, UW–Oshkosh, radio-TV-film; **Sara Hvizdak**, Rosholt, daughter of Robert and Anne Hvizdak, Marylhurst University in Oregon, art therapy counseling Masters; **Maria Filtz Lewandowski**, Wittenberg, daughter of Norman and Doris Lewandowski, Northcentral Technical College, dairy science and ag business; **Chelsea Martin**, Tigerton, daughter of Jon and Sue Martin, UW–Stevens Point, psychology; **Paige McAully**, Birnamwood, daughter of Theodore and Pamela McAully, Bellin College of Nursing in Green Bay, registered nurse; **Kali Newton**, Mosinee, daughter of Mike and Lori Newton, UW–Stevens Point, business administration; **Becky Peterson**, Scandinavia, daughter of David and Lenore Peterson, Fox Valley Technical College, registered nurse; **Brooke Simonis**, Custer, daughter of Bryon and Laurie Simonis, UW–La Crosse, radiation therapy and athletic training; **Nicole Tessen**, Iola, daughter of Todd and Michelle Tessen, UW–Oshkosh, accounting and finance

Here are a few words from some of this year's scholarship recipients:

I want to thank you for allowing me to receive such a generous scholarship. I appreciate the help, and this scholarship only makes me want to pursue my future more and more.—Travis Szeligowski

Thank you for selecting me for this wonderful award. It's great that you believe in the power of education.—Kaitlin Fuhrman

Thank you for the generous scholarship of \$350. I am honored that you are investing in my education.—Haley Dexter

I am honored to be named a recipient of this scholarship. Thanks to you I am one step closer to achieving my goal of obtaining a college degree.—Erin Wick

Thank you for choosing me to be one of your scholarship recipients for the 2014–2015 academic year. I promise to continue to strive for excellence both inside and outside of the classroom.—Rachel Smith ■

Youth Leadership Congress *(Continued from page 5)*

members is very abundant. Cooperatives are great and a big part of everyone's everyday lives. Thanks again.—Baylie Disher, Rosholt High School

My Youth Leadership Congress experience was amazing. I learned a lot about co-ops, leadership styles, personal presentation and motivation within a group. I am very grateful for the experience. Thank you.—Michelle Ellie, Iola-Scandinavia High School

Being able to attend the YLC was an amazing experience. I met so many new people and learned how to better my leadership skills. Being able to listen to the speakers and play team bonding games showed me it's okay to be myself around other people. I've been blessed to further my knowledge about my local co-op and the co-ops across Wisconsin. I never realized how incredible they are and what they do for the communities. Thank you! I have been talking to a lot of people about my experience and encouraging their kids to attend YLC when they get in high school. Thank you for this opportunity.—Megan Mazemke, Iola-Scandinavia High School

I had tons of fun and I learned a lot of things that I think I will remember and use throughout my life. Also, I made a lot of new friends. I liked many things about this trip, it's hard to pick out only a couple to write about. The speakers, Youth Board leaders, chaperones, and the kids there were all amazing. My favorite speakers were Chad Pegracke, Craig Hillier, and David Mann. I took quite a bit out of their presentations. One thing that Chad had said really hit me. He said, "Don't follow your dreams, lead them." Once again I'd like to give a huge thank you for sponsoring me! It was a great experience and I learned a lot! I'd give anything to do it all over again! Thanks again!—Kaela Glodowski, Rosholt High School

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the Youth Leadership Congress at UW–River Falls. It was a wonderful experience! The speakers were informative. I learned more about cooperatives, as well as how to be a good leader and what makes a good leader. I met so many great kids from all over Wisconsin. I wish I could have met more!—Jolene Peterson, Amherst High School

Thank you for sponsoring me to go to YLC 2014. I learned so much about being a leader and going after my own goals. One speaker, Chad Pegracke, really inspired me with his story about cleaning up the Mississippi River and accomplishing his goals. I also learned about electric cooperatives and what they do in the present and what they have done in the past to provide rural areas with electricity.—John Holtz, Little Wolf (Manawa) High School ■