

2014 Bright Ideas grant recipients honored

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Photo: Teachers, principals and central office staff from Elmore County schools accepted Bright Ideas grants from Central Alabama Electric Co-operative in January.

Teachers, students and area schools were awarded \$16,000 in grants to benefit more than 4,900 students in three counties through CAEC's educational grant program at a reception last week.

The reception honoring the 17 selected grant recipients was held during an evening ceremony on January 16 at the cooperative's headquarters in Prattville, where CAEC's Board of Trustees presented checks to the area teachers who were the authors of the grants.

Thanks to funding from the Bright Ideas Grant Program, sponsored by Central Alabama Electric Cooperative (CAEC), Elmore County students will explore the world of underwater creatures, and study the transformation of butterflies in the coming school year.

Originally introduced in 1998, the Bright Ideas Grant Program began with the goal of supporting innovative, interesting and effective initiatives that are not usually covered by traditional school funding. The Central Alabama Electric Cooperative (CAEC) has awarded approximately \$240,000 to date for local schools through the Bright Ideas Grant Program.

Grant proposals had been evaluated by a panel of judges from local community associations. Grants are intended to help enhance teachers' efforts, and are awarded to individuals or teams in public, private and home schools within CAEC's service area.

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"Perhaps nothing has as much of an impact on our children than what they learn in the classroom," said CAEC President and CEO Tom Stackhouse. "We are honored to be able to provide assistance to our educators who work tirelessly to give our future leaders the tools they need to be successful."

More than 96,300 students in all grade levels and subject areas have benefited from the Bright Ideas grants.

Elmore County teachers (pictured) receiving a 2014 grant were: Irene Wong, Marcia Stephens and Julie Morrison of Airport Road Intermediate School; Carolee Lindsey of Holtville High School; Tina Stoddard and Bonnie Sullivan of Wetumpka Elementary School; Luther Calhoun of Stanhope Elmore High School; Svetlana Chesser of Stanhope Elmore High School; Michelle Richey and Teresa Sigler of Coosada Elementary School; Kim Miller and Jennifer Daniel of Holtville High School; and Emilie Johnson, Heather Perdue, Elizabeth Jackson, Tracy Smith, Debbie Perez and Rosalind Crosby of Coosada Elementary School.

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