



Media Release

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2017 Round Up for Education scholarships awarded

The education careers of 240 students from throughout Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association's 12-county service area will get a financial boost this fall. Each will receive a scholarship of \$800 to help them attend state community colleges this year, thanks to the generous spirit and support of the Association's member-consumers.

This is the fifth year for the Round Up for Education scholar's program, which is funded by members who round their bills up to the nearest dollar each month. Scholarships are available to members who do the round up, as well as for their spouses or dependent children who are enrolled as freshmen this fall.

"Throughout our history, Pearl River Valley Electric has not only been providing electric service to rural areas, but working to improve the quality of life of our members and the communities where they live," said General Manager Randy Wallace. "We believe that education is vital to improving the future for all of us in south Mississippi, and the Round Up program was designed to encourage more young people to further their education.

"Members working together to achieve a common goal is a unique hallmark of cooperative organizations, and I am proud of the positive response we've received on this effort. As we are now able to see, the accumulation of what would normally be spare change for an individual has added up significantly. These funds will help create long-term educational opportunities as well as economic benefits, which is good for everyone in the communities we serve."

PRVEPA serves more than 49,000 meters. Since the Round Up program began in November 2012, more than \$1 million has been collected and deposited in an account overseen by the Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation. Ten percent of each year's funds are set aside in an endowed fund for future use. The remaining money is divided equally between the number of eligible applicants, resulting this year in 240 scholarships worth \$800 per student. In the program's 5 years, more than 1,000 students have now received scholarships.

Scholarship recipients this year include 129 students attending Pearl River Community College, 45 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and 45 at Jones County Junior College. An additional 21 students are attending 8 other state community colleges. Overall, students came from 21 different high schools and home school programs.

"The Round Up for Education Scholarship program is the largest scholarship program we manage," said Theresa Erickson, Executive Director of the Foundation. "We often see how small contributions from

large numbers of people can grow into significant amounts that benefit many individuals, and when people continue their education it not only benefits the individual, but it also benefits their family and ultimately their community.”

“I hope our members are able to see the effects this program can have—helping more than 1,000 students begin their college careers,” said Wallace. “We are thrilled with the results and know that members’ participation in the program will have positive impacts for years to come.”

Round Up for Education funds collected after August 1 go toward next year’s scholarships. Applications for 2018 scholarships will be available beginning this month.

2017 Community College Scholars Program (240 Students)

Community Colleges Students are Attending

Pearl River	129
Gulf Coast	45
Jones	45
Southwest	10
Hinds	3
Co-Lin	2
East MS	2
East Central	1
Meridian	1
Holmes	1
Northeast MS	1

High Schools Recipients Attended

Stone	43
Oak Grove	31
Purvis	27
Forrest Co. AHS	22
Sumrall	27
West Marion	23
Columbia	18
East Marion	11
Columbia Academy	19
Lamar Christian	3
Lumberton	1
Lawrence Co.	2
Others	13

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