



Media Release

For Immediate Release May 1, 2018

Contact Person: Kurt Brautigam
Phone: 601.731.7831

Originally published in Today in Mississippi

Pearl River Valley Electric sends local students to Youth Leadership Workshop

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi held the 32nd Youth Leadership Workshop Feb. 21-23 in downtown Jackson. The annual event brought 80 students from across Mississippi to the state capital to meet their legislators and to participate in activities designed to enhance their already present leadership abilities.

Jacob Brogan of Lamar Christian, Thomas Hahn of Columbia High and Katie Norris of West Marion High were selected from among the schools in Pearl River Valley Electric's service area to represent the electric cooperative during this hands-on workshop.

The students participated in team-building activities and discussions, met with their state legislators and visited the state Capitol. They also heard from a variety of motivational speakers, as well as from Mississippi's top leaders, Gov. Phil Bryant and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves.

Gov. Bryant continues his support of the program by speaking to the students each year during a luncheon at the Old Capitol Inn. During his remarks, he encouraged the participants to pursue their dreams and hold on to their Mississippi values.

"There are so many opportunities for you in Mississippi to take on leadership roles here. Whether you go on to college or choose a technical trade, there are many advantages to staying right here at home," he said.

Lt. Gov. Reeves encouraged the students to work hard for their dreams, giving them three guidelines for success: dream big, make a plan and work hard. "If you do these three things, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to," he said.

Training young leaders is fundamental to building strong communities and through this program, Pearl River Valley Electric hopes to prepare promising students for a bright future.

"We are proud to have these three outstanding young people represent Pearl River Valley Electric," said Randy Wallace, general manager. "Each year, the youth leadership program has encouraged students to expand their view of the world, and they take away lifelong lessons and develop lasting relationships. They are our future leaders, and we look forward to seeing them be successful in their schools and communities."

Jacob is the son of Tommy Brogan and Susan Haynes Johnson of Purvis, Thomas is the son of Lawrence and Angela Hahn of Columbia, and Katie is the daughter of Kevin and Patricia Norris of Foxworth. In June, the three will travel with the group to Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour. The seven-day trip will include visits to all of the popular monuments and memorials, as well as meetings with Mississippi's congressional delegation during a visit to Capitol Hill.

#