



## Media Release

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**Contact Person:** Kurt Brautigam  
**Phone:** 601.731.7831

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### **PRVEPA Selects 2 students for Youth Leadership program**

Two local high school juniors represented Pearl River Valley Electric last week in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership program. Hannah Phipps of Oak Grove High School and Eli Johnson of Columbia High School are the winners of this year's essay/interview contest. As a result, each student earned the opportunity to participate in a leadership conference in Jackson and an upcoming week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Pearl River Valley Electric selects the winners from essays submitted by students throughout its 12-county service area, and then through interviews with the finalists. This year's essay topic required students to discuss how PRVEPA has helped benefit Association members since being organized 80 years ago, as well as how it continues to serve members and the communities where they live.

Johnson, 17, is the son of Mike and Kristi Johnson of Columbia. He has won numerous scholastic honors at Columbia High, including an award from Woodsmen of the World, and has attended several youth leadership events. He participates in football and baseball as well as student council, and is in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Spanish National Honors Society and Key Club. Eli also enjoys playing other sports and fishing, and is active in church youth activities.

Phipps, 16, is the daughter of Jamie and Stephanie Phipps. An Oak Grove resident, Hannah is an honor-roll student at OGHS and a member of the Spanish National Honors Society, First Priority, National Society of High School Honors and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She has participated in Healthy Teens and Red Cross as well as numerous council activities and events. In her spare time, Hannah is a competitive dancer and enjoys writing and volunteering at her church.

Last week, Hannah and Eli joined 85 other students from around the state in Jackson for the 33rd annual Mississippi Youth Leadership Workshop, where they met with legislators and took part in leadership training sessions. They will also meet up with thousands of other students from around the country in June to attend the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington. There they will have opportunities to meet their Congressmen, tour the U.S. Capitol and do lots of other site seeing.

Four other area high school juniors were finalists in this year's contest: Ladner Watts of Columbia Academy; Presbyterian Christian School students Jacy Graham and Grayson Nocera; and Andrew Trotter of Oak Grove High School.

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