

AMAZING FUTURES AHEAD FOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The 2020 Rock Energy Cooperative Scholarship winners possess the qualities that will help them succeed in their college studies as well as their chosen professions.

A committee of co-op members met in February to select 15 graduating seniors from our service territory to receive college scholarships. Ask any of them, and they'll tell you it wasn't an easy task. A total of 50 students submitted applications.

Co-op directors decided this year to increase the number of scholarships from 10 to 15 and the amount from \$500 to \$1,000. Funds for the scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. Since 1989, the co-op has awarded more than \$122,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

This year's scholarship winners have a wide variety of career goals that include becoming a neurologist, physician

assistant, diagnostic medical sonographer, veterinarian, zookeeper, electrical engineer, agricultural journalist, sports broadcaster, school psychologist, math professor, Spanish teacher, businesswoman, airline pilot, Coast Guard inspector, and researcher specializing in beef cattle artificial insemination and embryo transfer.

These young scholars possess the qualities that will help them succeed in their college studies as well as their future professions. They have participated in dozens of school clubs, competed in sports, performed in band and theater, worked on 4-H and scouting projects, and joined church groups.

Even with all those extra-curricular activities, they still found time to volunteer with community organizations and work to help fund their college education.

Here's a brief introduction to the winners:

Kelsey Beaumont

High school: Clinton

College: Carroll University in Waukesha

Career goal: "My educational plans are to graduate from Carroll University with a bachelor of science degree in biology or exercise physiology and proceed with my education by attending graduate school to earn my master of science in physician assistant studies. My career plan is to become a physician assistant and work in a clinic or hospital setting."



Hunter Coplien

High school: Milton

College: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Career goal: "I plan to graduate from Milton High School in June of 2020, then plan to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and obtain my bachelor's in biochemistry with a focus in neuroscience or neurology and then go on to medical school to obtain my doctorate. I am not sure what I intend to fully do, but I am very interested in the human brain and how it functions, and I want to help people who may be suffering from brain injuries or help to discover new neural networks and pathways."



Abbigail Campion

High school: Milton

College: University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Career goal: "I hope to get my bachelor's degree in communication arts or sports marketing. My long-term goal for my career is to end up going out-of-state to work with bigger teams in their sports broadcasting programs or their sports communications. I want to be able to meet the big athletes and interview them, so public speaking is something I will want to work on in college. I hope to break more barriers with women in the sports world and potentially change the views forever."



Alec Hansen

High school: Edgerton

College: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Career goal: "My educational and career plans are the following: obtain a bachelor of science in Spanish from UW-Madison, study abroad in college in Central or South America, join the Peace Corps for two years in a Spanish-speaking country, attend graduate school to obtain a master's degree in teaching, and become a Spanish teacher."



Mitchell Heinzen

High school: Janesville Craig

College: University of Dubuque

Career goal: “Currently, I am working toward earning my private pilot’s license. This is the first step to my goal of one day becoming an airline pilot. After high school I plan to attend the University of Dubuque to further my education and earn the rest of the ratings needed to become an airline pilot. Upon graduation I will earn my certified flight instructor certificate and work for the college as a flight instructor to build my flight hours. I will need to meet the required 1,000 Airline Transport Pilot flight hours to then be hired by an airline. After this I will work as a first officer for a number of years until I am promoted to captain of a major airline. Then, finally, I will have met my goal of becoming an airline pilot.”



Amy Jones

High school: Hononegah in Rockton

College: U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Career goal: “The United States Merchant Marine Academy is a four-year federal service academy where after spending three years on campus and one year at sea, I will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in logistics and security as well as a Coast Guard license and an officer rank in any of the five military branches. I have a service requirement of five years active duty or eight years reserves while working in the maritime industry. In the military I plan on working for the Coast Guard doing inspections on cargo ships coming into the United States to eliminate the entrance of illegal substances. After my time in the military, I hope to continue on inspections and investigations, possibly for the FBI or another national security administration.”



Hope Markley

High school: Hononegah in Rockton

College: Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Career goal: “With veterinary medicine in mind, I plan to pursue a major in animal sciences and a minor in biology or chemistry during my four years of undergraduate and then further my education at vet school to earn my DVM. Following my education, I will most likely work at an emergency animal hospital for a few years and then hopefully open my own small-animal clinic.”



Shannon Mastey

High school: Hononegah in Rockton

College: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Career goal: “I intend to get a bachelor’s of science in mathematics with a minor in education and go on to get my master’s and PhD in math. I will be graduating from the University of Minnesota in three years, thanks to 47 credit hours from all my AP (advanced placement) classes. Ultimately, I plan on teaching and researching in the field of mathematics at the college level.”



Olivia McDonald

High school: Clinton

College: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Career goal: “In preparation for college, I have already taken numerous college-level courses at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at Rock County as well as Blackhawk Technical College. I plan to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and study agricultural business with a minor in journalism. It is my dream to become an agricultural journalist. I would love to write about the truths of agriculture and advocate for the industry I love. But I would also be okay with just being a journalist. I love writing, communicating, and learning how to successfully convey information to those around me.”



Allie McLarty

High school: Hononegah in Rockton

College: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Career goal: “I will pursue a major in psychology and upon earning my bachelor’s degree, I will participate in a graduate-level program and specialize in school psychology. My ultimate goal is to earn my doctorate degree. Ever since I was little, I have fostered a love for music. I started learning piano when I was 6 years old, and the second I got the chance, I joined band. Since then I have specialized in two more instruments, oboe and alto saxophone, and excelled in music. I cannot wait to continue my musical career into college.”



Abbey Miller

High school: Evansville

College: University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Career goal: “My educational plans are to attend UW-Platteville and earn a bachelor’s degree in, hopefully, animal science. I want to study bovine genetics and through this I hope to develop a career in the research and procedures around artificial insemination and embryo transfer technology in beef cattle. My main hobby is working with my cattle, both the few that I show during the year as well as our commercial herd at home. I enjoy working with my dad and the people who I have met while being involved in both sides, showing and production, of the cattle industry. After college, I plan to come back and continue working with my dad here at home.”



Sarah Olin

High school: Parkview in Orfordville

College: University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Career goal: “My goal is to successfully complete a bachelor’s degree in the field of business and finances in a timely manner. I want to graduate not only in the top of my class in high school but go on to graduate college with honors as well. After college I hope to already have a career started, whether that is with a business I worked at while in my last few years of college or one my university set up for me. If not, I plan to start on my job search immediately after I know when I will be graduating. I want to make a difference in the lives of others through my work, whether that is making their day just a little easier to manage and less stressful or fully changing their life through my work. I hope to one day become respected in my field as well as being highly recommended.”



Laura Owens

High school: Milton

College: Carroll University in Waukesha

Career goal: “I plan on attending Carroll University to work toward a bachelor’s degree in animal behavior. I plan on taking advantage of as many internships as possible while also transferring to the Woodman’s located in Waukesha in order to help pay for my student loans. Since I am majoring in something animal-based, it’s always important that I know I will be starting from the bottom and working



my way up. If I complete this educational step of my path, I plan on starting out at the bottom by becoming a zookeeper or an animal caretaker. Besides that, another career plan I have in mind is working with the DNR through the position of a wildlife technician.”



Elyssa Pope

High school: Clinton

College: Edgewood College in Madison

Career goal: “After I graduate this coming summer I am planning on becoming a CNA (certified nursing assistant), where I will then be able to work as a CNA before I go to college and hopefully while I am in college. I am attending college with an interest in radiation sciences and plan on graduating with a bachelor of science degree to become a diagnostic medical sonographer. During college, I also hope to figure out if I want to specialize in a certain area of sonography, like cardiac or vascular. I had an echocardiogram of my heart when I was young and could see my heart through the machine. Through that experience, I became utterly fascinated with the fact that I could see my heart pump and all the different areas of the heart. Thus, I researched all about sonography, and now that is what I want to study in college.”



Carter Urness

High school: Brodhead

College: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Career goal: “While in college, I plan to get a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science. I would also like to run competitively. After college, my goal is to get a job working in the engineering or computer science field in a technology-based company.”





ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED

Taking into consideration the health and safety of our members, Rock Energy Cooperative has made the difficult decision to postpone the annual meeting that was scheduled for Monday, March 30.

"This decision was not made lightly, but we felt it was in the best interest of our members, employees, and the community to err on the side of caution in light of the coronavirus pandemic," said Shane Larson, chief executive officer.

Details about the rescheduled meeting are in the planning stages and will be announced when finalized.

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Understanding the cooperative difference and identifying traits of leaders are just two of the topics that will highlight the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Congress.

The conference, co-sponsored by Wisconsin's energy cooperatives and the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, is scheduled for July 14–16 on the UW–River Falls campus.

Rock Energy Cooperative will pay for up to four high school students to attend the sessions. Applicants must be current freshmen, sophomores, or juniors who reside in the co-op's service territory.

The conference offers a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences.

Interested students can apply online by going to www.rock.coop and clicking on the Community & Youth tab. The application deadline is April 22.

For more information, call Barbara Uebelacker, communications director, at 866-752-4550 or email her at BarbU@rock.coop.

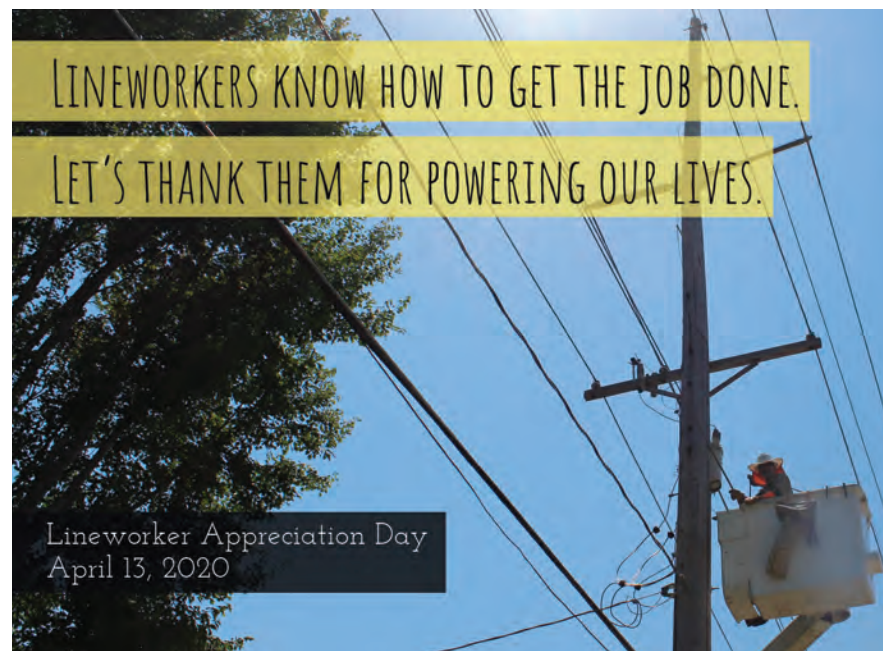
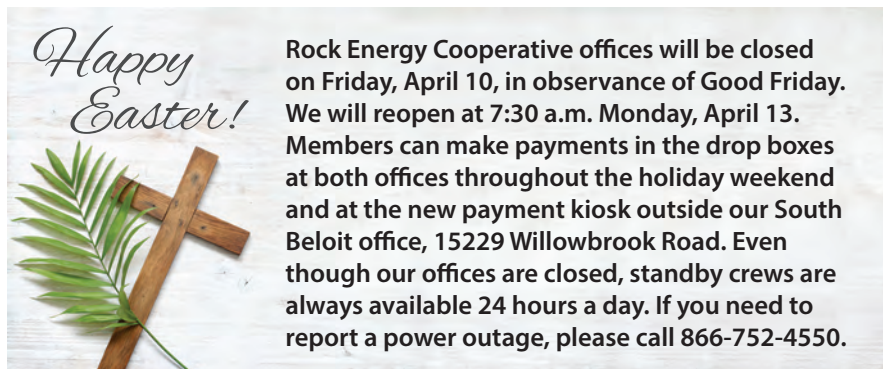
CAPITAL CREDITS GENERALLY NOT TAXABLE

As tax time is here, Rock Energy Cooperative members might be wondering if the capital credits they receive are taxable.

Controller Dave Lancour said he believes that capital credits generally are not taxable for individual members. Whether your capital credit refund is taxable generally depends on whether or not you claimed your energy bills as a business expense, Lancour said.

For example, a farm or other business claiming 75 percent business use of their energy costs would have to include 75 percent of the cash payment for the capital credits when received as income. The non-business portion is not subject to taxation.

Lancour suggested that members with specific questions should consult a tax adviser.



Shane Larson, CEO

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