



[Echoes of the Empire]

THREE DAYS OF ENERGY EXPLORATION

DENISE MOORE || COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Are you an educator? Could you benefit from a free all-expenses-paid course to learn more about energy and how to bring your new knowledge into the classroom? Empire Electric Association can help get you started.

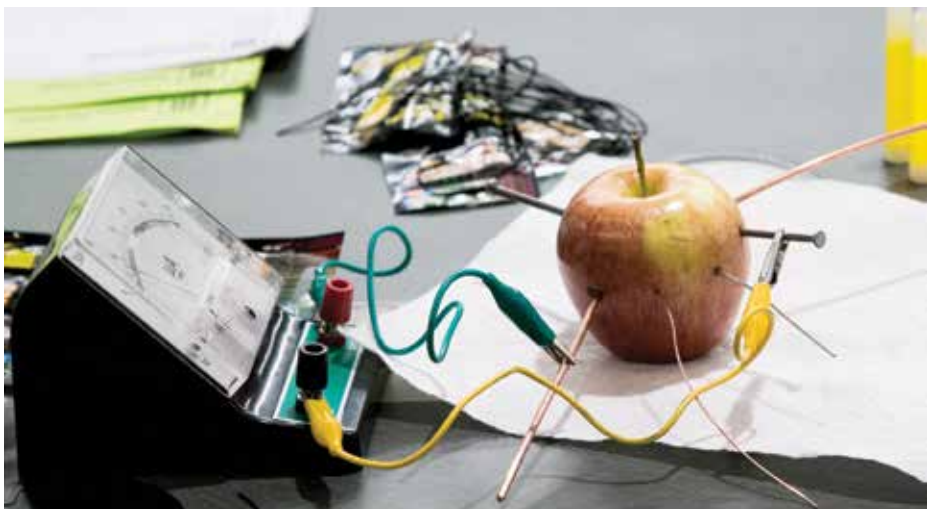
The National Energy Education Development project, or NEED, started over 35 years ago as a one-day celebration of energy education. Since then it has grown into a three-day energy conference for educators, and for the past six years Tri-State Generation and Transmission has partnered with NEED as a conference host. From its beginnings, NEED is dedicated to promoting energy consciousness and educating students, educators, businesses, government and community leaders through energy education programs. NEED's curriculum and resources align with state standards, such as Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards.

Empire Electric is one of 43 cooperative members of Tri-State and has endorsed the energy conference for many years. This year Miriam Peterson, the principal of Mission Discovery School in Monticello, Utah, went through the application process and was selected to attend the conference.

One of Miriam's coworkers brought in the NEED project ad from the *Colorado Country Life* magazine, handed it to her and said, "You should do this." Miriam was interested. She liked the idea of a three-day conference that gave her an opportunity to learn and explore more about energy and, another plus, all expenses were included.

NEED communicated with Miriam about her stay in Westminster before the conference and provided her with a comfortable hotel room. Miriam chose to

[continued on page 8]



TOP: Educator Miriam Peterson (back row, left) is pictured with a few of her students from the Mission Discovery School. The private school started in August of 2013 and includes licensed child care, a preschool program, a private school for grades K-12 and an after-school program. **BOTTOM:** Miriam is anxious to explore this apple experiment in her classroom setting.

SEPTEMBER CO-OP PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



Prince's Plume by Carla Fox

CO-OP CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 4, 2017 –

**Labor Day
OFFICE CLOSED**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017 –

The next meeting of the Empire Electric Association Board of Directors will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 8 at EEA headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at www.eea.coop. All members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 –

First day of fall

THREE DAYS OF ENERGY EXPLORATION

[continued from page 7]

drive, so lodging arrangements included the evening before the conference and the evening following the conference.

The instructors shared the curriculum overview from the start, and Miriam reported they did an excellent job of interacting with the group and making the activities interesting. She discovered that updated curriculum could be found on the NEED project website, allowing the teachers to print off just what is needed for the lesson their students are working on.

During the conference, training experiments were completed in a team environment until everyone was confident they could easily repeat them in their own classrooms. All the experiments were included in the \$300 Science of Energy Kit the educators received a few days after they returned home.

In between the experiments, the group played energy games geared to a classroom environment, like the stock market trading game that uses different types of energy and gets students moving around, learning in a fun, hands-on way.

Beyond the basic education the group received during the conference, special tours of Tri-State headquarters added to their energy knowledge. They saw instantaneous graphs of wind, solar, coal and natural gas production, a four-state distribution map where electricity is monitored in real time and the marketing department where Tri-State purchases and sells electricity. In addition, the group was bussed to Fort Lupton to tour the J.M. Shafer Generating Station. This plant uses natural gas to heat water into steam that runs turbines to produce electricity.

Miriam came away with many teaching ideas from the energy conference and is excited to use them throughout the upcoming school year. She said the entire conference was well-planned and even included many food choices that met her special dietary needs.

The NEED project conference is a wonderful teaching resource. Empire Electric will continue to promote and offer community support for energy education outreach. If you are an educator or



Miriam receives her \$300 Science of Energy Kit from the NEED project.

know someone who would enjoy attending this valuable conference, the application process is simple. Look for next summer's conference ad in a spring issue of *Colorado Country Life*.

MY CO-OP ADVANTAGE

Fetterman Receives National Recognition

Empire Electric Association Director Jerry Fetterman earned recognition by attaining the Director Gold credential offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. NRECA is the national service organization for Empire Electric and more than 900 other rural electric utilities in the United States.

Josh Dellinger, general manager of Empire Electric, said NRECA offers courses to help directors comply with laws, understand evolving technologies and apply leading governance practices. "Jerry is committed to being the best board member possible," Dellinger said. "Jerry's efforts to stay informed about cooperative issues through education illustrate that commitment."

To earn the Director Gold credential, Fetterman had to complete a core set of five courses in topics ranging from finance to technology to earn the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, add more courses to earn the Board Leadership Certificate and then complete three additional credits to earn the Director Gold credential, which is the highest level of director education offered by NRECA.



Continuing Education Scholarship Winners

The continuing education scholarships are only offered to individuals who have previously received a scholarship from Empire Electric. The scholarship recipients below were selected at the July 14, 2017, board meeting. Scholarship winners are eligible for the continuing education scholarships for up to three additional years. Call Denise Rosenbaugh at 970-564-4441 for questions regarding scholarships.



THERESA BERGER



RYAN JENS BREWER

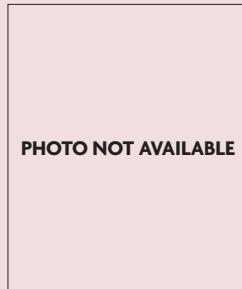


PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

ELLEN DAVIS



LOGAN DEAN



CORISSA GUYNES



JESSICA GUYNES



RANDY HALEY



ZACHARY HARTLE



JACI JORDAN



NICHOLE KIBEL



ROBERT OWER



COLTON REYNOLDS



DAMIOND SMITH



AUSTIN WILCOX



JESSICA WILLBURN



Cortez Rendezvous Hot Air Balloon Rally

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative balloon joined about 20 other balloons during the Cortez Rendezvous Hot Air Balloon Rally, August 4-6, 2017. Two experienced pilots, crew chief Mark Sullivan of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and General Manager Cooperative Balloon Associates Cheri White based in Austin, Texas, were accompanied by Empire Electric volunteers who assisted with setting up and taking down the balloon. The helpers rode in the balloon alongside the pilots. See more photos of the Touchstone Energy Cooperative balloon at: <http://www.facebook.com/CoopBalloon>.



Stay Safe After Storms

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake — they can leave hidden dangers as well. Safe Electricity advises everyone to be mindful of the electrical hazards that storms and flooding can leave behind.

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized and dangerous. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away and contact Empire Electric Association.

Never step in to a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords.

Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water. Never turn off your breaker box if you must stand in water to do so.



If you are cleaning up, do not use electric yard tools if it is raining, the ground is wet or you are standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.

Do not use water-damaged electronics or appliances until a professional verifies that they are safe.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or EEA. Never drive over a downed line. A downed line causes other things around it to become potentially hazardous.

Time is Running out!
When you choose to go paperless you will receive a \$5 credit on your bill just for signing up!

Deadline for a paperless credit is December 31, 2017
Go to www.eea.coop to sign up.

Happy Learning • Back to School

Empire Electric is the Energy Expert Working for You, keeping the power on in your school.