

Powering our future



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

As a parent, one of my top priorities is to help prepare my children for their future. It might be helping to foster their education, teaching them practical life skills, teaching them the importance of hard work and teamwork, or sharing my passion as a die-hard Detroit Lions fan (which some may debate as helpful or not). In these and many other ways, I do my best to provide them with opportunities to learn and grow so they are well equipped for whatever their future may hold.

In much the same way, we here at GLE are also charged with looking ahead to prepare the cooperative to face the challenges and take full advantage of the opportunities the future may present. These efforts take many forms.

From an operational standpoint, we strive to balance financial stability with making the necessary investments to ensure the reliability of our electric distribution system. Our annual vegetation management program is a great example of work taking place today to reduce the impact of future storms on our system. The construction of our Trustream fiber-to-home network provides much needed internet and voice services to an ever-expanding list of service areas. We're also working to install a new generation of automated meters that will replace outdated metering technology in the field and enable more robust billing options and usage data, remote disconnects and reconnects, and automatic outage notification, among other benefits.

Our "What's next?" vision also has us looking at emerging technologies, such as helping our members take advantage of the ever-growing list of energy-efficient products on the market. Our revised energy efficiency program, Energy Wise, offers members rebates on the purchase and/or installation of qualified energy-efficient appliances and home systems. After a



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successful first year in 2022, we've made some tweaks to the program for 2023. Some of the changes include modifications to the electric vehicle charger rebate and the addition of rebates for more electric lawn and garden equipment.

Finally, through our Youth Tour Program and our scholarship program for students pursuing lineworker training and degrees in electrical engineering and information technology, we are fostering the next generation of community leaders along with the people who will keep our lights on and develop the next technological innovations that will power our future.

As a cooperative, GLE is guided by seven core principles that all cooperatives share. The future-focused programs I've highlighted above are a just few examples of how GLE is working to meet both the principles of "Education, Training, and Information," and "Concern for Community."

I'm proud and excited to be part of a cooperative that strives to have the same forward-thinking approach to serving its members in much the same way, I, as a parent, try to provide the best possible future for my children.



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GLE Scholarship Program Helps Make Futures Bright



In our ongoing effort to prepare for the future, Great Lakes Energy invests in regular infrastructure and technology upgrades, ongoing vegetation management, and new services such as Trustream fiber internet. **We also invest in people: Both our current employees and the next generation of people who will keep the lights on and develop the next technological advancements.**

That's why we're proud to continue two scholarship programs for the 2023-24 school year for people enrolled in lineworker training programs and those pursuing degrees in electrical engineering or information technology.

A total of 10 scholarship opportunities are available ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500 per school year or program year through these two programs.

The lineworker training scholarship program offers up to six \$1,000 scholarships for students pursuing certification or a degree related to a pre-apprentice electrical lineworker program at an accredited institution in Michigan.

The degree-seeking program offers two scholarships worth up to \$2,500 for students pursuing degrees related to electrical engineering and two for students pursuing degrees related to information technology at any accredited college or university in the United States.

Scholarship eligibility requirements are included on the applications which are available online at gtlakes.com/youth-programs/. The application submission deadline is March 31.

In 2022 GLE awarded a total of \$16,000 in scholarships between the two programs.



Youth Tour Returns

After a three-year hiatus, the Youth Tour program will return in 2023. Great Lakes Energy will select four high school sophomores or juniors from its service area for a June 14-18 trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about the history of our nation, the co-op business model, and meet legislators. Once in Washington, D.C., they will join around 2,000 high school students from across the country.



Applications must be from students whose parents or guardians are GLE members. To learn more about this leadership adventure and to apply, visit cooperativeyouthtour.com.

The application deadline is Feb. 28.



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