

power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



GLE is 'at home' in your community



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

Whether it's with our families, friends, workplaces, places of worship, service clubs, or athletic teams, nearly every aspect of our lives is organized around belonging to something.

It's great to feel like you are welcome, respected, appreciated, understood, and valued for who you are and the role you play. Said another way, it's nice to feel "at home" in these circles.

In much the same way, I and the rest of the team at Great Lakes Energy, are grateful and honored to feel "at home" in the communities we serve. This sense of belonging is also what drives us to work hard every day to help improve the lives of our members and our communities. It's also the driving force behind the many educational and community initiatives your cooperative offers.

Here are a few examples:



We offer scholarships for students pursuing careers in electrical engineering, information technology, or electrical linework.



Each year we offer grants worth up to \$2,000 to schools that educate children of GLE members to fund innovative programs, particularly those involving technology.



GLE sends four high school sophomores or juniors to Washington, D.C., each year to participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



We are also proud to partner with the Char-Em Intermediate School District and Boyne City Public Schools to offer a lineworker training program to high school students in northern Michigan.



The People Fund, which has awarded more than \$4.5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations since its inception in 1999, also regularly supports educational programs throughout our service area.

All of these examples help bring our members and communities together with a sense of belonging to something greater. The cooperative spirit gives us purpose and reinforces our commitment to continual improvement within our organization. Whether we're working to prevent power outages from happening or making sure we are prepared for the challenges of a rapidly changing electric industry, it's critical for us to be continually asking ourselves, "How can we get better?"

In addition to our grid reliability efforts and our ongoing work to expand our Trustream fiber internet network, we are also always looking for other ways to improve our members' lives by providing more value and convenience. Recent enhancements to our outage notification offerings and our newly enabled suite of consumer analytics tools are just two examples of our commitment to improvement.



"Whether it's education and community outreach, neighbors helping neighbors, expansion of our life-changing fiber network, or improvements in reliability, we are bound together through a sense of purpose and connection."

Like you, I'm a GLE member, and I hope that you share my feeling of pride in belonging to a member-owned cooperative.



Scholarship application deadline is **March 31**

One of the many ways Great Lakes Energy demonstrates its connection to and support for the communities it serves is through **supporting educational opportunities both in local classrooms and for those seeking education beyond high school.**

That's why we're proud to continue **two scholarship programs** for the 2024-25 school year for people enrolled in a lineworker training program and those pursuing degrees in electrical engineering or information technology. The application submission deadline is **March 31.**

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.

► In 2023 GLE awarded a total of \$14,000 in scholarships between the two programs.



Scholarship eligibility requirements are included on the applications which are available online at gtlakes.com/youth-programs/ or by contacting GLE's Human Resources Manager at **(231) 485-2537, ext. 8478** or via email at hr@glenergy.com.



Headquarters:
1323 Boyne Avenue,
Boyne City, MI 49712



gtlakes.com



truestreamfiber.com



(888) 485-2537



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glenergy@glenergy.com

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