

# power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## Empowering Students, Strengthening Communities



**Shaun Lamp**

President & Chief Executive Officer

June is a meaningful time of year, a season for marking milestones, celebrating achievements, and looking ahead with hope for all that lies ahead for this year's graduates. Across our communities, the role of local community support in shaping our young people's growth and success is truly inspiring.

The cooperative guiding principle of "concern for community" isn't just something we talk about at GLE; it's something we live every day. Our members aren't just customers; they're neighbors, coworkers, and friends. That's why we remain deeply committed to strengthening the communities we all call home. Our youth-and education-focused programs are among the most meaningful ways we bring that commitment to life.

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, we proudly award scholarships to students pursuing degrees in electrical engineering or information technology. We also support up to six students enrolled in a pre-apprentice lineworker training program with scholarships.

By supporting students entering all three of these fields, we're not only helping open doors to rewarding careers but also encouraging and supporting the next generation of professionals who will help ensure the long-term reliability and resilience of our electric system.

### CLASSROOM GRANT PROGRAM

We also support education in our local schools through our Classroom Grant program. Schools in our service area that educate children of GLE members can receive a grant of up to \$2,000 to fund innovative programs, especially those involving technology or equipment that enrich students' learning experiences. These grants empower educators to bring fresh, engaging opportunities into their classrooms, creating a lasting impact on students.

### YOUTH TOUR PROGRAM

GLE also invests in future community and business leaders through the Youth Tour program. The program offers high school sophomores and juniors a unique opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., where they learn about American history, government, and the electric cooperative industry. Participants also develop leadership skills, connect with peers from across the country, and engage with elected officials and policymakers. It's an experience that often broadens perspectives and builds confidence.

As we celebrate this year's graduates, I'm reminded that growth, both personal and collective, is possible when people feel supported and encouraged to keep learning and moving forward. From classrooms to training centers, from lecture halls to utility poles, the next generation is stepping forward with energy, determination, and promise.

*"On behalf of all of us at Great Lakes Energy, congratulations to this year's graduates. We are proud of you, we believe in you, and we are honored to support your journey as you help power the future of our communities."*



To learn more about the many youth-focused programs GLE offers, visit [gtlakes.com/youth-programs/](https://gtlakes.com/youth-programs/).

# Building Community Connections

As your member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperative, Great Lakes Energy understands the important role we play in empowering you. Although our primary focus is providing you with the reliable electric and internet services you depend on, we also strive to connect with our members and the community in many other meaningful ways.

One of the ways is by supporting local youth educational programs:

## SCHOLARSHIPS



GLE offers scholarships of **\$1,000-\$2,500** for students pursuing careers in electrical engineering, information technology, or electrical linework.

**Cooper Hall**, of Lake City, was a 2025 recipient of \$2,500 from GLE. He is pursuing a degree in electrical power engineering from Michigan Technological University.

*"My passion for this field was sparked by growing up in a small town, where I witnessed firsthand the evolving impact of alternative energy sources. I am eager to contribute to our changing society by helping shape a more sustainable future."*

**Total of scholarships** awarded in the past five years: **\$76,000**

## CLASSROOM GRANTS



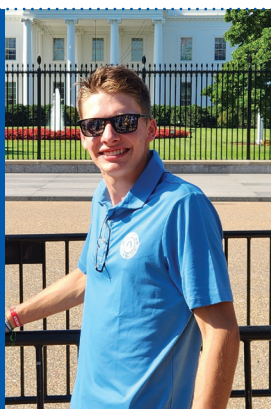
Each year, we offer grants worth up to **\$2,000** to schools that educate children of GLE members to fund innovative programs, particularly those involving technology or equipment that will enrich students' education. Since the program began in 2012, GLE has funded 239 projects.

One of the 2025 grant recipients was **Montague High School**, which received \$1,500 for a Van De Graff generator and circuit and electromagnet kits.

*"The new resources charged up our electricity unit with hands-on exploration, curiosity, and real-world application," Montague High School teacher Chelsea Bender said.*

**Total of classroom grants** awarded since 2012: **\$362,700**

## YOUTH TOUR



GLE sends four high school sophomores or juniors to Washington, D.C., each year to participate in the **Electric Cooperative Youth Tour**. This trip gives students the chance to learn about leadership, civic engagement, and the cooperative spirit. Participants explore monuments and museums, meet with a member of Congress, and make lifelong friends with other students from across the country.

**Naaman Looy**, one of four GLE-sponsored 2025 Youth Tour delegates, was selected to serve on the National Rural Electric Cooperative's Youth Leadership Council. Naaman said the lessons he learned as a Youth Tour participant have already served him well in organizing his electrical safety-focused service project.

**Total number of students** since 2019: **18**



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