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For Immediate Release

Three Area High School Seniors Earn Electric Cooperative Scholarships to Attend Power Line Worker School

Glen Allen, Va. – Caleb Crowder of Amelia Courthouse, Ryan Lockner of Saxe and Troy Doggett of Ruther Glen have earned \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Education Scholarship Foundation of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC).

Each was accepted into Southside Virginia Community College's Power Line Worker Training School, an 11-week pre-apprentice program held at Pickett Park in Blackstone that runs from July 11 to Sept. 30. Crowder and Lockner were eligible for consideration because their parents are consumer-members of Southside Electric Cooperative, while Doggett's parents are consumer-members of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

"Our Foundation is excited to continue supporting co-op youth enrolled in this Virginia-based technical education program as they pursue careers as line workers," said Roberta Harlowe, chairman of the board of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative who also chairs VMDAEC's Educational Services Committee and Foundation board.

Recipients are chosen based on three major criteria: financial need (40 percent), academic achievement (40 percent) and community involvement (20 percent). Applicants must also provide evidence of their acceptance in a post-high school educational institution or program.

The Foundation, which plans to make scholarships available to future Power Line Worker Training School applicants, is funded through tax-deductible donations and bequests from individuals, proceeds from benefit fundraising events and Co-Bank's Sharing Success Program. It also participates in the Amazon Smile Program.

"We plan to offer a third class later this year, which would start Oct. 3, said Keith Harkins, vice president of workforce and continuing education for SVCC. He added that SVCC is working to make low-cost dormitory-style housing available to students from outside the Blackstone area.

To learn more about the Power Line Worker Training School, visit <https://southside.edu/events/power-line-worker-training-school> or call Susan Early at (434) 292-3101.

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 electric co-ops that serve Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. It is based in Glen Allen, Va. and provides safety and employee training, governmental relations, communications, including the publication of *Cooperative Living* magazine, and other services to its member cooperatives. For more information on VMDAEC and the scholarship program, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com.