



## Media Release

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### **PRVEPA Selects 3 students for Youth Leadership program**

Three local high school juniors will represent Pearl River Valley Electric this year in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership program. Hagen Bracey and Marlie Barnes of Columbia Academy, and Jeremiah Jackson, who is homeschooled, are the winners of this year's essay/interview contest. As a result, each student earns the opportunity to participate in a leadership conference in Jackson and a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Pearl River Valley Electric selects the winners from essays submitted by students throughout its 12-county service area, and then through interviews with the finalists. This year's essay topic required students to discuss how PRVEPA and other electric cooperatives around the country have been a benefit to members since being organized 80 or more years ago, as well as how they continue to serve members and the communities where they live.

Bracey is the grandson of Buddy and Linda Bracey of Sandy Hook. Jackson is the son of Ed and Debra Jackson of Wiggins, while Barnes is the daughter of Stephen and Wendy Barnes of Columbia. In late February, Hagen, Marlie and Jeremiah will join more than 80 other students from around the state in Jackson for the 34th annual Mississippi Youth Leadership Workshop, where they will meet with legislators and take part in a variety of leadership training sessions. They will also meet up with thousands of other students from around the country in June to attend the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington. There they will have opportunities to meet their Congressmen, tour the U.S. Capitol and do lots of other site seeing.

Fourteen other area high school juniors were finalists in this year's contest: Kristianna Day of East Marion High School; Tuscany Schweitzer of West Marion High School; Ryder Evans of Purvis High School; Lamar Christian School's Michelle Allmon; Kristen Gay, Olivia Adams, Katie Price, Maddie Claire Sauls, Drake Arrington, and James Ragan of Columbia Academy; and Presbyterian Christian School students Jackson Pecunia, Joseph Goodwin and Benjamin Barbieri.

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