



NC BEAUTIFUL
EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

NC Beautiful Announces 2014 Recipients of The Duke Energy Foundation Windows of Opportunity Grants

Grants will subsidize educational programs that promote environmental stewardship, awareness, and appreciation

NC Beautiful has announced the winners of the 2014 Windows of Opportunity (WOO) Grants from The Duke Energy Foundation. Eleven schools were awarded WOO Grants, which were created to cultivate an appreciation of natural environments by helping K-12 children get out of school and into natural settings. The grants also build leadership awareness, develop environmental educational mentors and ambassadors, create materials and resources that can be used by other students, and develop a sustainable outdoor program.

The Duke Energy Foundation improves the quality of life in the communities it serves through volunteer efforts, expertise through leadership, and financial support through grants to charitable organizations. At the core of The Duke Energy Foundation is its commitment to the community, with a focus in three areas: Environment and Energy Efficiency, Economic Development, and Community Vitality. Inclusiveness/diversity and employee/retiree volunteer initiatives are integrated into all three areas of focus.

Stick Williams, President, Duke Energy Foundation & Vice President, Corporate Community Affairs, believes that reaching out to children about the importance of environmental preservation is a sound investment for North Carolina's future. "Providing students with hands-on learning opportunities to experience the outdoors can ignite excitement in science-related careers," says Williams. "The Foundation's contribution to NC Beautiful is one example of how innovative educational opportunities can become a catalyst to engage future generations in science, the environment and our state's natural resources."

NC Beautiful Executive Director, Steve Vacendak, says that the support of The Duke Energy Foundation will help NC Beautiful broaden its reach to empower more citizens to help keep North Carolina beautiful. "This grant serves to reinforce Duke Energy's continued commitment to environmental education in the state of North Carolina," says Vacendak. "We congratulate all of our grant recipients, and want to thank The Duke Energy Foundation for helping us educate a new generation on the importance of preserving our environment and natural resources."

The following is a complete list of The Duke Energy Foundation 2014 Windows of Opportunity Grants recipients, including the name of the teacher submitting the winning entry:

- Nancy Bryant, Burlington Christian Academy, Burlington (Alamance County)
- Tyler Mitchell, Alexander Central, Taylorsville, (Alexander County)
- Lee Ann Smith, Glen Arden Elementary School, Arden (Buncombe County)
- Tracy Rettig, New Hope Elementary School, Chapel Hill (Orange County)
- Britta Gramer, Morganton Day School, Morganton (Burke County)
- Mark Patton, Terry Sanford High School, Fayetteville (Cumberland County)
- Rebecca Johnson/Rodney Metters, North Davidson Middle School, Lexington (Davidson County)
- Keith Stanek, Tyro Middle School, Lexington (Davidson County)
- Richele Dunavent/Courtney Ruiz, Sugarloaf Elementary School, Hendersonville (Henderson County)
- Kathy Bosiak, Lincolnton High School, Lincolnton (Lincoln County)
- Carla Wilkins, Helena Elementary School, Timberlake (Person County)

About NC Beautiful

NC Beautiful has been part of the state's environmental preservation community for over 40 years, supporting awareness, education and beautification efforts that affect the quality of life for all North Carolinians. The organization concentrates on hands-on and merit-based programs designed to empower citizens to preserve the natural beauty of the state of North Carolina. Whether it is school children building outdoor classrooms, graduate students developing cutting edge research, or a Boy Scout troop planting azaleas at an elder care facility, NC Beautiful makes it possible for North Carolinians to keep NC beautiful. For more information, visit www.ncbeautiful.org.

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