



YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM ENERGIZES LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL



Jackson Electric’s youth ambassador program is all about leadership, learning about the cooperative business model, and demonstrating concern for the community. Each year, we reach out to our graduating youth ambassador class from five years ago because we’re curious about where they are now, their successes, and whether they’ve carried any aspects of the program into their young adult life. We are always pleased to hear the success stories that these students share with us, and these students from the Class of 2017 are no exception.

Allison Gerdes A Melrose-Mindoro High School graduate, Allison Gerdes went on to study at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in December 2020. She is working towards her master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling through South Dakota State University. “I’ll finish my program in August 2023,” Allison shares. “This is the path I planned to take following graduation, but I didn’t expect to end up in South Dakota.”



During her undergraduate coursework, Allison minored in sociology, where cooperatives were part of the subject matter. “We studied how cooperatives are beneficial to communities and ways we can support them,” she shares.

Allison is a National Board for Certified Counselors Scholar. “This is an award given to graduate students in counseling who show promise in supporting and leading efforts to increase accessibility to mental health services for those living in rural communities,” she explains.

Outside of the classroom, Allison has shown her leadership potential by training new employees in the emergency department at the hospital where she works, and past volunteer work with the Brookings County Youth Mentorship Program. “Every week during the school year, I spent time with a child needing a supportive role model in their life,” Allison says. “I have also given back to the community of Brookings and SDSU through my role at the Foundation on campus, helping with the process of raising money for scholarships and volunteering at numerous community-wide events.”

Allison recently relocated back to the La Crosse area, where she will complete the experiential portion of her degree, with the end goal of becoming a licensed professional counselor for children and adolescents. “I am grateful for the experiences I had as a youth ambassador,” she shares. “It allowed me to see the ways that my small actions can impact my community for the better and instilled my value of giving back.”

Kambrie Haas Past youth ambassador Kambrie Haas continued her education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse after graduating from Melrose-Mindoro High School. Kambrie went into college with an undeclared major, but soon found her home away from home within the English department. “I graduated in May 2022 with a degree in English education and special education for middle and high school students,” she shares. “I will be teaching ninth and tenth grade English in my new teaching position at the Blair-Taylor School District.



Over the summer, Kambrie managed the Sparta Family Aquatic Center, which she has done for several years. In addition to her management role, she also took on volunteer leadership roles during college. “I took a leadership role on the university bowling team by serving as the rescue personnel for any injuries and first aid applications. I also volunteered to teach kids how to bowl and coached a swim team,” she says.

During Kambrie’s time as a youth ambassador, she learned about different types of cooperatives. Most of her interaction with cooperatives outside of the program has been through her Co-op Credit Union membership. “The program taught me how to communicate better as a leader,” she shares. “It also helped me understand how to address different leadership styles, especially when conflicting personalities meet.”

Marissa Sime Marissa Sime knew that she wanted to remain in the area and work in healthcare following her graduation from Melrose-Mindoro High School. During her first year of college at Western Technical College, Marissa completed her general education courses. During her second year, she completed the nursing assistant program while on the wait list for the physical therapy assistant program. “I became a CNA at Onalaska Care Center after completing the program,” Marissa shares. “The following year I started the physical therapy assistant program.”



As Marissa began her coursework, she realized physical therapy was not her desired career path after all. Sometimes figuring out what you don’t enjoy leads to your calling. After talking with an advisor, Marissa looked into the medical assistant program. “It was not a career path I had looked into before,” she says. “I started the program and fell in love with it.”

Marissa is currently employed as a medical assistant at Gundersen Family Medicine Residency Clinic after graduating with high honors in December 2020. “I love my job because I get to work with patients of all ages and conditions. One of my favorite things is finding ways to help in the community.”

The youth ambassador program encourages community outreach, and Marissa has had plenty of opportunities to make a difference from an after-hours sports physical night to get young athletes approved to play sports and updated on vaccines to volunteering at an elementary school to teach about the importance of vaccinations. “I enjoy getting out of the clinic to do things for the community,” Marissa shares.

Before joining the youth ambassador program, Marissa says she was not one to step up and accept more challenging leadership roles. However, her involvement in the program developed her confidence. “I demonstrate leadership in my department by training new employees and serving on committees,” she says. “I look forward to doing even more for the community. When I think back to my time in the youth ambassador program, I am grateful for the learning experiences and new people I was able to meet.”

Mykayla Wollin After graduating from Melrose-Mindoro High School, Mykayla Wollin continued her education at Winona State University, where she decided to major in social studies education. During her time at Winona State, she discovered additional interests. “I added Spanish education and bilingual/bicultural education, which would allow me to teach social studies in Spanish,” Mykayla shares. “I graduate next spring with a degree in social studies and Spanish education.

I’ll be able to teach in Minnesota and Wisconsin.”

Mykayla enjoys the Winona area and hopes to find a teaching position nearby. Through her time in the area, she’s discovered that there is a cooperative grocery store, a type of cooperative students learn about in the youth ambassador program. “Through Jackson Electric’s youth ambassador program I also learned about the opportunity to attend the Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.,” Mykayla shares.

After attending the Youth Tour, Mykayla gained leadership confidence and decided to take the opportunity to represent Jackson Electric and Wisconsin on a national level through the NRECA Youth Leadership Council. “I attended the NRECA annual meeting in Nashville as the Wisconsin representative. While we were there, we had an opportunity to volunteer with a local food shelf,” she says.

Faith has been an integral part of Mykayla’s journey, and she has become involved in a Winona church where she volunteers with their youth program. She occasionally has an opportunity to use her Spanish knowledge to interpret for families new to the community. This passion for volunteering was developed by Mykayla’s participation in the program. “I was able to learn about co-ops, as well as what it means to give back,” she says. “The youth ambassador program helped me grow, figure out who I was, and allowed me to break out of my shell and make new friends.”



Members are invited to attend the Annual Member Picnic

Tuesday, August 30
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Jackson Electric Cooperative Building
N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls

Serving brats and hotdogs with the traditional picnic sides.

CHANCE TO WIN 1/8 OF BEEF!

APPLIANCE, HEAT PUMP REBATES AVAILABLE

Clothes Washer.....	\$150.00	Heat Pump Rebates: To receive a rebate, complete and submit the rebate form to our office, a copy of your receipt or paid invoice, documentation showing the equipment is installed and operating on Jackson Electric’s service lines, and the AHRI certificate.
Clothes Dryer (electric).....	\$150.00	
Heat Pump Clothes Dryer.....	\$150.00	
Dishwasher	\$150.00	
Dehumidifier	\$50.00	
Refrigerator (min. 10 cu. ft.).....	\$150.00	
Freezer (min. 10 cu. ft.)	\$150.00	
Inductive Range.....	\$150.00	
Air Source Heat Pump.....	\$500/ton (SEER 14+, HSPF 8.2+, or EER 11+)	
Geothermal Heat Pump	\$500/ton	
Variable Speed Blower Motor..	\$.35/unit	

(New furnace only. Efficiency (AFUE) >95% and kWh/yr (Eae) <670 or variable speed as listed on the AHRI certificate)

ECM Blower Motor	\$.35/unit	Applications may be rejected if all required documentation is not completed and submitted within 60 days of invoice date. Equipment and devices must be installed and operating on Jackson Electric’s service lines. Active membership only. Application forms can be downloaded from www.jackelec.com or requested from our office.
<small>(New furnace only. Variable speed or kWh/yr (Eae) ≤ 670 as stated on the AHRI certificate.)</small>		

Appliance Rebates: Appliances must be Energy Star rated. To receive your rebate, complete and submit to our office the appliance rebate form, along with a copy of your receipt or invoice of each item purchased, and the Energy Star label.

Rebate amounts less than \$250 will be issued as a credit on the member’s billing statement. More than that amount, a check will be issued to the member on record.



JACKSON ELECTRIC AWARDS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1998, Jackson Electric has used a portion of its Federated Youth Foundation funds to provide post-secondary education scholarships to area high school seniors. This account is funded annually from Jackson Electric’s unclaimed capital credits.

This annual scholarship program offers up to ten \$1,000 scholarships to students whose parents/guardians are active members of Jackson Electric. In addition, a \$1,500 youth ambassador scholarship is offered to a qualified student who participated in Jackson Electric’s youth ambassador program. This year, Jackson Electric gave two youth ambassador scholarships.

Jackson Electric provided \$13,000 in scholarship awards to students in the class of 2022.



Tucker Patterson
Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan High School



Wyatt Berg
Black River Falls High School



Becca Hudson
Black River Falls High School



Makayla Nortman
Black River Falls High School



Hope Roskos
Black River Falls High School



Kaylee Sweno
Black River Falls High School



Madyson Schultz
Blair-Taylor High School



Paige Subra
Blair-Taylor High School



Ty Patterson
Melrose-Mindoro High School



Brooke Peterson
Youth Ambassador Scholarship



Ella Fry
Youth Ambassador Scholarship

No Photo Available
Savannah Clark
Sparta High School

*“Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential.”
- Kerry Washington*



If you have called Jackson Electric, there is a large probability you have talked with Member Relations Advisor Brandi Shramek. Whether you are buying or selling a home, need a water heater repair, scheduling an appointment, have questions about rebates, curious about the dual fuel program, or inquiring about solar, Brandi has the answers or can find someone who does have the answers. “Almost every week I get a question that I haven’t heard before. I love investigating and finding out the answer for the member,” says Brandi.

After graduating from Viterbo University in 2018, Brandi started working at Jackson Electric. Her interest in cooperatives started in high school when she participated in Jackson Electric’s youth ambassador program and returned to the cooperative as a summer intern. “By being a summer intern, I learned about what cooperatives do and the opportunities they have,” Brandi says. “The seven cooperative principles matched my values and were important to me in a job.”

When Brandi isn’t at Jackson Electric you can find her renovating her home, spending time with her dog, and volunteering with Interfaith where she is on the board and a member of the marketing committee. She also reads for Interfaith’s visually impaired program and reviews grant applications.

Here are a few more things about Brandi that many people don’t know about her:

1. What is your favorite season and why?
Fall. I enjoy the mild temperatures, hunting season and the fall colors.
2. Who had the most influence on you growing up?
My parents. They have always supported me, encouraged me to follow my dreams, be successful, and they wanted my sister and I to have more opportunities than they had.
3. If you could choose a new skill this very instant, what would it be?
I would learn more about woodworking so I could do more projects for my home.

Samantha Bratland, Marketing Communications Specialist

HEAT PUMPS:

ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATING AND COOLING FOR YOUR HOME

With the price volatility of fossil fuels, why would you not consider the purchase and installation of an electric heat pump? Heat pumps “move” heat rather than “generate” it; therefore, they provide up to four times more heat energy than the amount of electrical energy they consume, making them very efficient to heat and cool your home.

Air Source Heat Pump

- Transfers heat between your home and the outside air.
- Delivers 2-1/2 to 3-3/4 times more heat energy than the electrical energy it consumes, making it efficient and economical to operate.
- During the summer, the unit cools your home like a central air conditioning system.
- During the winter, the unit provides heat.
- When outdoor temperatures dip low enough, these units reach their balance point, the temperature at which supplemental heat kicks in to maintain the thermostat setting in your home.
- A \$500 per ton rebate is available from Jackson Electric if the unit is purchased, installed, and operating on Jackson Electric’s lines in 2022. Qualifications do apply.

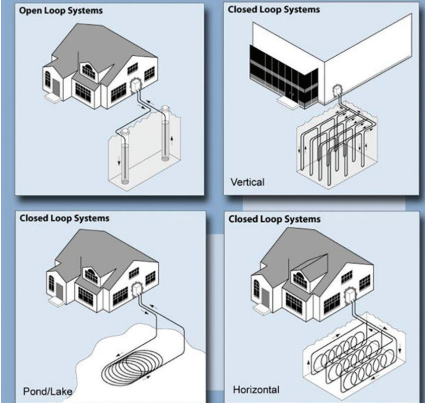


Geothermal Heat Pump

- Uses the constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool your home.
- Moves heat through pipes buried underground.
- Even on the coldest winter nights, the earth’s temperature allows the system to reach efficiencies of 400 percent or higher.
- Typically, the system is sized to meet all of a home’s heating and cooling needs.
- A \$500 per ton rebate is available from Jackson Electric if the unit is purchased, installed, and operating in 2022. Qualifications do apply.
- Members may qualify for a 26 percent federal renewable energy tax credit if installed by December 31, 2022.

Types of Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

There are four basic configurations for geothermal heat pump ground loops. Three are “closed-loop systems,” where a water and antifreeze solution is continually moved through pipes; the fourth is an “open-loop system,” where groundwater or well water is used.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size.
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces.
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home’s energy use for space heating/cooling. (Source: energy.gov)
- Two main components: an outdoor compressor/condenser and an indoor air-handling unit. A conduit links the outdoor and indoor units.
- A \$500 per ton rebate is available from Jackson Electric if the unit is purchased, installed, and operating in 2022. Qualifications do apply.



** Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Card Payments 844.759.3984
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