

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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SECO ANNOUNCES 2010 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Seniors from Marion, Citrus, Lake, Sumter, Pasco, Levy & Hernando Counties Eligible

Sumterville, FL – Up to twelve deserving high school seniors from Sumter Electric Cooperative's service territory will receive assistance from the Co-op this year to go on to college or a technical school following high school. The SECO Board of Trustees recently voted to continue the Co-op's popular scholarship program which, over the years, has helped many deserving students attain higher learning when that might have been more difficult otherwise.

The students chosen to receive SECO Scholarships in 2010 will each be the beneficiaries of a \$2,500 grant to assist them in their pursuit of higher education.

SECO Director of Corporate Communications Barry Bowman said, "The selection of those students who will receive scholarships will be based on each individual's past and present activities in school and the community, financial need and scholastic record. All applicants will be evaluated by an independent panel of educators from around the SECO service territory."

He noted that to qualify, graduates must reside in a home being served by SECO and be enrolled in an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school by the end of 2010. Applications are now available at area high school guidance offices and at any of SECO's customer service centers in Marion, Lake, Citrus, and Sumter counties. They must be returned to SECO no later than March 26, 2010.

"The SECO scholarship program reaffirms the Co-op's commitment to the future of our young people, and while the program has no impact on the cost of electricity, it is a significant benefit for those awardees struggling to fund their higher education," concluded Bowman.

SECO officials pointed out that other scholarship resources can be found on the Internet including the following sites: *findtuition.com*; *syf.org*; *careersandcolleges.com*; *freecollegescholarships.net*; etc.

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