

CHEC CELEBRATES BRIGHT IDEAS MONTH BY AWARDING DESERVING TEACHERS

Throughout the month of November, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including CHEC, awarded Bright Ideas education grants to deserving teachers across the state. The grants make possible innovative, classroom-based projects that would otherwise go unfunded. This year, CHEC will contribute a total of \$3,000 to two teachers on Hatteras Island. All together, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will collectively contribute nearly \$600,000 to fund more than 550 Bright Ideas projects this year.

Sheree Markley, second grade teacher at Cape Hatteras Elementary School, was awarded a grant for her project, "Outdoor Learning Center." This grant will allow for a Learning Center to be created in an open, outdoor area with 6 handicap-accessible picnic tables. The space will include several simulated animal habitats made from natural materials by the students. The tables will be covered with a pergola to provide shade and shelter and create a natural station for the observation of wildlife.

Evan Ferguson, marketing education teacher at Cape Hatteras Secondary School, was awarded a grant for her project, "Otis Spunkmeyer School-Based Enterprise." The grant will help fund the purchase of equipment and supplies needed to start a school based enterprise selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. Both the marketing classes and CHSS' chapter of DECA will bake the cookies, display and package them, market the products, set up point of sale during school lunch and other events, and be responsible for finances.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit our website at www.chec.coop or the Bright Ideas website at www.ncbrightideas.com. Become a fan of "Bright Ideas Education" on Facebook to receive regularly updated news about the program.