



## **LOCAL YOUNG LEADERS LEARN ABOUT GOVERNMENT DURING CO-OP EVENT IN NASHVILLE**

NASHVILLE – Livingston Academy student Hana Misty Lynn Sullivan and Upperman High School student Damian Walters were in Nashville March 13-15, 2017 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. The juniors were chosen and sponsored by Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation (UCEMC).

Sen. Jim Tracy on Tuesday, March 14, greeted delegates attending the three-day leadership and government workshop. Tracy welcomed the young leaders to the Senate Chamber of the Tennessee State Capitol where Alan Whittington, assistant chief clerk of the Senate, explained the process required to pass legislation. Students had the opportunity to debate and vote on a mock bill.

Reps. Mike Bell and John Lee Clemmons joined Sen. Tracy for a town hall meeting with attendees. The three discussed the legislative process and answered questions posed by summit attendees. Delegates then had the opportunity to listen in on debate in House and Senate meetings in Legislative Plaza.

In addition to a hands-on look at state government, delegates to the event learned team-building and problem-solving skills and developed a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.

"I have learned a lot about the Senate and the House of Representatives and how laws are passed," says Hana Misty Lynn Sullivan, a junior from Livingston Academy, attending the Youth Leadership Summit. "I'm really grateful for the opportunity to come here and improve my leadership skills. I'm grateful for UCEMC. My co-op really does a lot to make sure that leaders of tomorrow get the opportunities they deserve."

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders and use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. "Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities," says Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. "They will be the next generation of leaders in rural Tennessee, and we want to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will face."

“These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners,” says Jimmy Gregory, General Manager. “We want them to share our passion for rural communities, so it is an honor for Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to help prepare them for the opportunities that are ahead. The future of our rural communities depends on a new generation of strong leaders like these.”

Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is an electric power distribution cooperative. UC EMC is owned and operated by its members and distributes electric power through more than 4,500 miles of lines to more than 49,000 members located primarily in Jackson, Overton, Putnam and Smith Counties and northern DeKalb County. However, several members are served in the fringe counties of Clay, Fentress, Macon, Pickett, White and Wilson. Visit [ucemc.com](http://ucemc.com) to learn more.

The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association provides legislative and communication support for Tennessee’s 23 electric cooperatives and publishes The Tennessee Magazine, the state’s most widely circulated periodical. Visit [tnelectric.org](http://tnelectric.org) or [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) to learn more.