



## Iowa cooperatives advocate in Washington, D.C.

In the first week of May, a group of two dozen Iowa Rural Power advocates participated in NRECA's 2022 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. After a cancellation in 2020 and a virtual format in 2021, the Iowa group was excited to be back in person connecting with other states, members of Congress and staff.

In addition to participating in NRECA programming, the group attended productive meetings with Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst, where they discussed the importance of an all-of-the-above energy strategy, direct pay tax credits, RUS repricing legislation, supply chain concerns, rural economic development initiatives and Farm Bill reauthorization.

Attendees discussed an all-of-the-above energy strategy and Iowa's commitment to providing safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electricity.

Unlike some industry peers, electric cooperatives are not-for-profit entities governed by the member-consumers we serve and they expect and deserve affordable, reliable power.

It is through this lens that cooperatives evaluate energy proposals and plan for the future.

Collectively, America's electric cooperatives substantially reduced carbon emissions by 18 percent from 2005 to 2019.

Cooperative representatives also spent time discussing Rural Utilities Services loan refinancing. This bipartisan bill, introduced by Representatives O'Halleran (D-AZ) and Hartzler (R-MO) in the House and Senators Smith (D-MN), Hoeven (R-ND), Sinema (D-AZ), and Boozman (R-AR) in the Senate, would allow electric cooperatives to finance their debt without prepayment



### Legislative visit

**Above** | Jean Schaffer, senior legislative representative, left, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power Cooperative visit May 6 with U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, right, about the need for an all-of-the-above energy strategy. More than 20 electric cooperative representatives traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of cooperative members across the state. The group also discussed Rural Utilities Services loan repricing and direct pay tax credits for renewable energy. Those in attendance met with U.S. Senators Grassley and Ernst and staff members from Iowa's House of Representatives delegation.

penalties like every other American homeowner and business.

More than 500 electric co-ops in 41 states, including Iowa, hold outstanding debt from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). With this common sense solution, electric co-ops could realize \$10.1 billion in savings from repricing RUS loans at current market rates.

On direct pay tax credits, the group asked Congress to explore legislation to promote investment in infrastructure and the electric

grid that would support proposals to allow tax credits for renewable energy and carbon capture to be refundable to entities like electric cooperatives.

While a scheduled district work period in the U.S. House meant that Iowa's four representatives were back home in Iowa, it was a great opportunity for the group to spend time with Congressional staff where those in attendance shared priorities and the importance of cooperative support in Iowa's communities. ■

# Graduate Spotlight!



## Tyler Herrig

Electronics Technician

Corn Belt Power Cooperative

**School:** Bismark State College

**Degree and subject:** Bachelor of Arts and Sciences, Energy Management **Community**

**Activities:** Pheasants Forever; Member of First English Lutheran Church, Spencer **Hobbies:** Hunting; Working on the Homestead **Family Members:**

Wife, Ashley; Kids, Henry, two, and Ida, one



## Kari Rubel

Accountant

Corn Belt Power Cooperative

**School:** Buena Vista

University **Degree and subject:** Bachelor of Arts, Accounting **Hobbies:**

Camping; Boating; Traveling; Gardening **Family Members:** Kids, Kaycee, 16, and Karson, 14



## Darron Anderson

**School:** Iowa State University

**Degree and subject:** Bachelor of Science, Software Engineering; minors in Cyber Security and Music Technology **Academic awards:** Cum Laude **School Activities:** Robotics Club; Iowa State Statesmen Choir; Tea Club; Guild of Boardgamers **Hobbies:**

Cooking; Music; Games **Future plans:** Work for Collins Aviation, Cedar Rapids; further education to earn a

masters degree in human computer interaction **Parents:** Dennis Anderson, Network Administrator; Marlise Taggart-Anderson



## Olivia Arndorfer

**School:** Bishop Garrigan High

School **Scholarships:** Briar Cliff University academic scholarships, Dallas Clark Foundation

scholarship **School Activities:** Golf; Art Club; Yearbook Editor

**Future plans:** Attend Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, majoring in Early Childhood Education

**Parents:** Mike and Jennifer Arndorfer, human resources specialist



## Sean Connor

**School:** Spencer High School

**Academic awards:** Academic Award all semesters; National Honor Society; Distinguished Scholar at SDSU; Basin Electric Power Scholarship; Fine Arts Scholarship and Campbell, Higgins and Mummert Scholarship through Spencer School Foundation; October Rotary Student of the month; 2021 Boys State Colonel

of the Iowa State Patrol **Community Activities:** Member of Hope Church in Spencer; Youth group; Sunday

School; Vacation Bible School; Praise band bass guitarist; 4-H **School Activities:** Student Council, Student Body President; Band; Choir; Jazz Choir; Speech; Drama; Archery; Tennis **Hobbies:** Rollerblading; Riding motorcycle; Camping; Participating in Local theater **Future plans:** Attend South Dakota State University, Brookings, majoring in Ag Business and Finance **Parents:** Kristy and Patrick Connor, plant manager, Wisdom Station



## Erin Cowell

**School:** Sioux Central High

School **School Activities:**

Band; Choir; Bowling

**Future plans:** Attend Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, majoring in Nursing

**Parents:** Judy and Mike Cowell, shift operator, Wisdom Station

# News in brief

## Brusseau graduates MIP

Congratulations to Larry Brusseau, compliance director, Corn Belt Power, for completing NRECA's Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP).

The MIP certificate program is a comprehensive, six-week program, broken into three blended learning units (in-person and online are required), that provides in-depth analysis of the functions and processes of co-op management. More importantly, it emphasizes practical applications of these key competencies. Onsite portions of MIP are held in the Fluno Center for Executive Education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This executive training facility offers business leaders and corporate teams a dynamic learning experience in a world-class environment.



**Brusseau, MIP graduate**

**Above** | Larry Brusseau, compliance director, left, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, receives his MIP certificate May 3 at the Madison, WI graduation ceremony from Gary Pfann, director, executive & staff education, NRECA.

## Braun joins Corn Belt Power Cooperative

Shane Braun started his Corn Belt Power career May 2 as an apprentice electrician in Hampton. Braun worked for NextEra Energy for the past 12 years. He holds associate degrees from Northwest Iowa Community College and North Iowa Area Community College. Welcome, Shane.



**Shane Braun**

## Prairie Energy Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative close on loan

Prairie Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative closed two revolving loan fund loans with PSI 2 Go, LLC. in Belmond May 9.

The new partnership between PSI and Lincoln, Nebraska resident, James Drake, will create an opportunity to maximize commercial printing capabilities with a new focus on laser personalization, bindery, lettershop, and mailing/distribution capabilities.



## Supporting local printing capabilities

**Above** | From left, Brittany Dickey, vice president, business development and Stacy Cirks, development finance director, Corn Belt Power Cooperative present revolving loan funds to PSI 2 Go May 9 with Prairie Energy Cooperative.



## Spotlight on Excellence

**Above** | Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Corporate Relations team from left, Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations; and Marena Fritzler, marketing director, display the first-place Gold Award for Corn Belt Power's 2020 annual report "The Art of Resilience" in the Best Annual Report category for a generation and transmission cooperative or statewide association.

## Corn Belt Power receives award for annual report

In the 2022 "Spotlight on Excellence" national awards program, Corn Belt Power Cooperative received the first-place Gold Award in the Best Annual Report to Members category for its 2020 annual report "The Art of Resilience." In addition, the cooperative also shared in a gold award for Best Total Communication program with NIPCO, CIPCO and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The group won the award for its inaugural Shine the Light volunteer program.

Corn Belt Power competes with generation and transmission cooperatives and statewide associations in the program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

More than 600 entries were submitted in the Spotlight on Excellence program. Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia and University of South Carolina, as well as noted professionals in the fields of marketing, web design and digital communications, and newspapers judged the event, which uses a finite scoring system to determine the winners.

Winners were recognized May 3 in Seattle during the CONNECT conference. ■

View the winning annual report at:  
[bit.ly/ArtOfResilience](http://bit.ly/ArtOfResilience)



**April Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Lindsay Steffen**, customer care and billing representative, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated her \$100 prize drawing to the Palo Alto County Soccer program.



Lindsay Steffen

### The power of human connections

Lindsay Steffen, customer care and billing representative, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, demonstrates the Touchstone Energy value of commitment to community by serving as a soccer coach for her son, Owen's team. Steffen also coaches the Emmetsburg Swim Team.

She says, "Me, my husband and friend Brandi volunteered to coach youth soccer this year. Most of our team has never played soccer before. It's been fun to see the smiles on the kids' faces and to see them learn some beginning fundamentals of soccer!"



### Dickey promoted

Congratulations to Brittany Dickey who was promoted to vice president, business development, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, effective April 6, 2022.

Dickey has been in the business development department since 2007.

Brittany holds a bachelor's degree in Finance & Real Estate from the University of Northern Iowa. ■

### Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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