



SEC's Youth Tour delegate attends NRECA Annual Meeting



Ashley Chipman addresses cooperative representatives from across the nation during NRECA's Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

By Jacob McCann, Key Accounts Manager

Each year, students attending the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Tour have an opportunity to interview for a spot on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC). The selected students serve as representatives for the cooperatives in their states. In 2016, one of SEC's participants, Ashley Chipman, a current senior at Fuqua School in Farmville, was selected for this honor.

Chipman returned to Washington, D.C., for a leadership workshop and then, in February 2017, traveled to San Diego, California, to represent SEC and the other Virginia cooperatives at the NRECA Annual Meeting. Chipman and 42 other YLC delegates joined more than 5,500 representatives from electric cooperatives across the nation, including several SEC board members and staff.



Several members of the SEC Board of Directors were present at the meeting: L-R, Director Will White, Board Chairman Dr. Frank Bacon, YLC Representative Ashley Chipman, Director Brenda Hicks Johnson and Director Dr. Earl Currin.

“The whole experience was a lot of fun,” shares Chipman. “Seeing and performing some of the behind-the-scenes work of such a large event was an amazing experience.”

Chipman, who received her admissions packet from Virginia Tech before leaving for California, states, “This whole experience has

helped me grow as a person. I have gained leadership skills, people skills and learned a lot about cooperatives and business in general. I am very grateful for the opportunity and thank Southside Electric Cooperative for sponsoring this wonderful experience.”

SEC proudly participates in NRECA’s Youth Tour trip each summer and offers this opportunity to any high school or homeschool junior in our service territory. For more details on Youth Tour, please visit www.sec.coop/youthtour.

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