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Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Year Banquet Held

Education is a core principle that Touchstone Energy® cooperatives employ everyday and a clear example of this was on display during the 2011 Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year Banquet held Saturday, April 30 on the campus of Dakota State University in Madison, S.D.

The banquet is the culmination of the year's "Scholar of the Week" program, which recognizes students for classroom and co-curricular achievements as well as community service.

Throughout the year, local Touchstone Energy cooperatives awarded \$100 to the scholars and also featured them on KSFY-TV.

East River Electric Power Cooperative Assistant General Manager-Member Services Scott Parsley commended scholars for their academic and co-curricular dedication as well as their community involvement. "I would also commend your families and teachers for helping to positively shape you as individuals," he added.

Randomly-drawn cash awards were given to three of the 24 students in attendance. This year's \$1,000 winner was Tess Johnson of Clark High School. Johnson and her family are members of Codington-Clark Electric. Colman-Egan High School Senior Brooke Hemmer (Sioux Valley Energy) and Whitley Falor, a senior from Kimball High School (Central Electric) were drawn as \$500 winners.

DSU President, Dr. Doug Knowlton provided the event's keynote address and stressed to the scholars that finishing high school and preparing for post-secondary education is just a beginning of journeys that will follow.

"I've often said if I was to invent a bumper sticker to put on the back of DSU's vehicles, it would say there's no such thing as graduation," Knowlton said. "Your college education will be about preparing you for new things, not ending anything."

In addition to Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, the event is also sponsored by KSFY-TV and DSU. KSFY Anchor Katie Taube was the event's master of ceremonies.

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East River Electric Power Cooperative is a wholesale electric power supply cooperative serving 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally-owned electric system, which in turn serve more than 92,000 homes and businesses and over 250,000 consumers.

Our 41,000 square mile service area covers the rural areas of 41 counties in eastern South Dakota and nine counties in western Minnesota.