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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Young Artists Honored By State's Electric Cooperatives***

Indianapolis, Ind. — Twenty-two young Hoosier artists were recently honored as winners of the annual Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest.

The contest, sponsored by **Electric Consumer**, invites young artists from around the state to submit artwork reflective of the calendar month for which their grade level is assigned. For example, high school seniors submit artwork for the month of December. This year, in honor of our state's bicentennial in 2016, students were asked to incorporate an element of Indiana history, culture, landscape or location in their artworks. The Indiana Bicentennial Commission has named the calendar a "Legacy Project."

Submissions were then judged and winners from each grade level selected. Those winners will then represent that specific month in the 2016 "Cooperative Calendar of Student Art." Nine honorable mention winners are also included in a special section of the calendar.

One student from the group is also selected as Artist of the Year/Best of Show winner. This year, seventh grader Evan Olinger, Sellersburg, earned the coveted designation.

The young artists selected to represent their calendar month are:

- **Oliver Lanam**, Seymour — Kindergarten
- **Evelyn Abrams**, Worthington — First Grade
- **Blaine Wehmiller**, Seymour — Second Grade
- **Kelis East**, Brownstown — Third Grade
- **Yianna Seibold**, Columbus — Fourth Grade
- **Meredith Sibert**, Rochester — Fifth Grade
- **Precious Jones**, Charlestown — Sixth Grade
- **Evan Olinger**, Sellersburg — Seventh Grade
- **Katelyn Goodpaster**, New Castle — Eighth Grade
- **Breanna Crum**, North Manchester — Ninth Grade
- **Laurabeth Landis**, Kirklintown — 10th Grade
- **Athena Silot**, Avon — 11th Grade
- **Richard L.**, Pendleton — 12th Grade

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Honorable mention winners were:

- **Kristen Phipps**, English
- **Danielle Sommerman**, English
- **Naomi Kujak**, Fort Wayne
- **Alyson Kniola**, Zionsville
- **Jhurni Cassady**, Pleasant Lake
- **Laurabeth Landis**, Kirklín
- **Luke Lanam**, Seymour
- **Mercedez Morgan**, Pekin
- **Bella-Saige David**, Wabash

In addition to having their artwork featured in the calendar, contest winners will also have their creations on display later this year as part of an ongoing sponsorship with the Hoosier Salon. The salon has galleries in Carmel and New Harmony.

“Indiana’s electric cooperatives, through ***Electric Consumer***, are delighted to showcase Indiana’s talented young artists. We are excited to continue our relationship with the Hoosier Salon and to serve as an Indiana Bicentennial Legacy project,” said Emily Schilling, ***Electric Consumer*** editor.

***Electric Consumer***, based in Indianapolis, is distributed to nearly 250,000 electric cooperative member-owners throughout the state of Indiana. For more information, go to [www.electricconsumer.org](http://www.electricconsumer.org).

Indiana Electric Cooperatives (IEC), publisher of ***Electric Consumer***, represents 38 electric cooperatives that serve 89 of the state’s 92 counties. For more information on IEC and its members, visit [www.indianaec.org](http://www.indianaec.org).

The Hoosier Salon, headquartered in Carmel, is a statewide nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to create an appreciation of visual art by promoting Hoosier artists and their art. For more information, go to [www.hoosiersalon.org](http://www.hoosiersalon.org).

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*The winners’ artwork is featured in the May ***Electric Consumer***.  
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