

## Media Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Electric cooperatives honor ‘power and hope’ of Indiana youth

Indianapolis, Indiana – Nov. 30, 2015

Indiana’s electric cooperatives and their statewide magazine, ***Electric Consumer***, will honor five young Hoosier electric cooperative members who are making a difference in their communities.

The Youth Power and Hope Awards program honors students in fifth through eighth grades who are outstanding community servants. The recipients will be recognized for their achievements at the Indiana Electric Cooperatives annual meeting in Indianapolis Dec. 8. They will also be featured in the December issue of ***Electric Consumer*** magazine.

The recipients of the 2015 Youth Power and Hope Awards are:

**Allison Baker**, Ligonier (Noble REMC)  
**Mekinley Elrod**, Corydon (Harrison REMC)  
**Elayna Hasty**, Angola (Steuben County REMC)  
**Austin Sandel**, West Lafayette (Warren County REMC)  
**Christopher Verissimo**, Lafayette (Tipmont REMC)

“Commitment to community is a founding principle of electric cooperatives” said Tom VanParis, CEO of Indiana Electric Cooperatives. “We are proud to recognize these five outstanding individuals who have made their area of the state a better place.”

**Indiana Electric Cooperatives**, located in Indianapolis, represents 38 electric distribution cooperatives that serve 1.3 million Hoosiers in 89 of the state’s 92 counties. The cooperatives are collectively the second largest electricity provider in Indiana. For more information about the association, visit [indianaec.org](http://indianaec.org).

**Electric Consumer** is distributed to nearly 250,000 electric cooperative member-owners throughout the state of Indiana. It is published by Indiana Electric Cooperatives. For more information, visit [electricconsumer.org](http://electricconsumer.org).

### Basketball star Luke Zeller inspires as featured speaker

Luke Zeller, former professional basketball player and 2005 Indiana Mr. Basketball, will be the featured speaker at the 2015 Youth Power and Hope Awards presentation Dec. 8.

Zeller is president of DistinXion, a non-profit organization that integrates character building and sports training to help kids grow as athletes and individuals.

The five recipients will attend a private reception featuring Zeller, during which he will speak to the students about his passion for encouraging young people to be their best.