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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**

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FIND US ON



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

A man of many talents



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, let's take a break from the negativity that has been associated with 2020 and meet one of the most positive employees at your cooperative. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce this month's featured employee, Everett Tomlin—a

Santee Electric accountant.

Everett grew up in Gable, South Carolina and attended Crestwood High School. He received his accounting degree from Winthrop University, and he also served our great country in the Air Force Reserves for eight years as a crew chief. That means he had the really cool job of being an aircraft mechanic! Thank you for your service, Everett!

Everett met his wife, Lynnette, in church. While they have been married for seven years, he is quick to point out that they have known each other basically their entire lives. Lynnette is a physician's assistant, and she and Everett have two beautiful children—Lauren, six, and Liam, two. Lauren will be a first grader at Kingsbury Elementary (in Sumter) next year, and her little brother keeps grandma company during the day!

Everett's time at SEC began with our summer internship program when he had a chance to learn cashing, accounting, and even a bit about prosecuting power theft! He started full time at SEC in 2013 as an accounting specialist and has been in his current position—accountant—since 2014.

When I asked what he liked best about his job, he replied, "I really like the fact that what I do touches so many areas of the cooperative. One

day, I might be paying taxes on behalf of SEC. The next day, I'm balancing miscellaneous receivables." Everett explained he makes sure all the money owed to and paid to your cooperative makes it into the right accounts.

I always like to follow that with a question about the toughest part of the job. "The complexity of cooperative accounting is a tough challenge," he replied, "but it is a really good challenge too. The complexity of what we do within the department and how this impacts the cooperative as a whole is

something that people can study for a career and never learn everything."

I asked Everett to share something with our readers that he really wished everyone knew about us. "We really do all have your best interests at heart. Every decision made here is for the good of the membership."

One of Everett's favorite hobbies is playing with his kids. However, Everett is

also a very talented singer! He sings in his church choir and he also sang with a group in talent competitions and at weddings in the past. He even sang the National Anthem at an SEC Annual Meeting with our last featured employee, Jerry. He did confess he misses his motorcycle, a pre-kid hobby that he would not mind bringing back. He needs to get Lynnette to bless it, though!

Good luck with that, Everett, and thank you for all you do for our cooperative!

GETTING TO KNOW US



Everett Tomlin
 Accountant

MARY GRACE MCGEE

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

A virtual experience of a lifetime

Gov. Henry McMaster



THE RISKS OF spreading COVID-19 caused summer cooperative programs like the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Summit in Columbia to be cancelled. However, that did not mean that three local high school students sponsored by Santee Electric Cooperative missed out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

In June, Gracyn Reeves of Andrews, Taemaisha Collins of North Santee, and Kiaundra Maple of Greeleyville participated in the Virtual Youth



Gracyn Reeves



Kiaundra Maple



Taemaisha Collins

Youth Tour in 2021. Collins is also taking advantage of the Robert D. Bennett Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded

Experience, a week-long web conference hosted by South Carolina's electric cooperatives. The event allowed high school students selected by cooperatives from across the state to engage with leaders from the safety and comfort of their homes using computers and smartphones.

In addition to the virtual experience, these students were offered the chance for a scholarship in the amount of the trip or the chance to go on the trip next year. Collins and Maple chose to receive the scholarship, while Reeves will attend the Washington

to one student who identifies, plans, performs, and evaluates a community service project that directly benefits their local community. The winner will be announced in September.

From June 19-26, several of our South Carolina's highest elected officials—Governor Henry McMaster, U.S. Senators Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham, and U.S. Congressman Jim Clyburn—responded to questions about the pandemic, race relations and other topics important to the students. State Superintendent Molly Spearman described how their final years of high school might be different than the classes before them. Dr. Linda Bell, the state's chief epidemiologist, answered questions about the disease and told them that their "new normal" should be wearing masks everywhere they go.

"I would say to any student, particularly students of color, living in communities where you may not have as many opportunities, you are just as smart as students in any other part of the state," Spearman says. "If you take advantage of the opportunities you do have, your character and abilities will shine."

Jim Sonefeld, drummer for Hootie and the Blowfish, met with the Virtual



Molly Spearman
State Superintendent



U.S. Senator Tim Scott speaks to students by web conference during the Virtual Youth Experience in June.

Youth Experience students to discuss mental health during the pandemic and substance abuse. Rev. Charles Jackson, senior pastor at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, spoke about the importance of developing community and positive race relations.

"I encourage these young people to develop relationships with those around them who might be of a different perspective or a different race," Rev. Jackson says. "It's all about developing a sense of community."

The students also had the opportunity to earn a \$5,000 college scholarship by working in teams to create a podcast detailing how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted their lives. Those podcasts are now available on our website.

Taemaisha Collins commented, "Thanks for everything, it means so very much to me! I plan to go far in life and you're helping me on my journey."

Each Virtual Youth Experience session is available to view on the *South Carolina Living* YouTube channel.



U.S. Congressman
Jim Clyburn

MIKE HACKER