

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### ECI Youth Tour Delegates Talked Energy in Washington, D.C.

Carly Kelty of rural Vinton and Michelle Hunter of rural Brandon were among 1,500 other youths to visit Washington, D.C., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual youth tour event. ECI REC's young delegates met with Iowa's congressional delegation and found that the group was split along party lines on whether drilling for new sources of oil should be allowed offshore and in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

Following the meeting with Senators Charles Grassley (R) and Tom Harkin (D), students met with the congressman representing their district or the congressman's staff. First District Rep. Bruce Braley (D), 3rd District Rep. Leonard Boswell (D), and 4th District Rep. Tom Latham (R) were able to meet with students, and staff for 2nd District Rep. Dave Loebsack (D) and 5th District Rep. Steve King (R) were present.

The congressional delegation was unanimous in its



*Michelle Hunter (left) and Carly Kelty represented ECI REC during June's Youth Tour.*

support for reducing the nation's reliance on foreign oil, developing more renewable energy, and encouraging energy efficiency to help Americans better manage their energy consumption and costs; However, their plans for achieving energy independence and developing a lower-carbon economy while ensuring affordable and reliable electricity varied. Republicans Grassley, King, and Latham supported offshore and Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge drilling for oil, but Democrats Boswell, Braley, Harkin and Loebsack were opposed.

Three days of sightseeing preceded the meeting with the congressmen. The students visited several monuments, memorials, museums, and historic places including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, and even Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.

### 2008 Character Counts! Training Sessions Successful

On July 8 and 9, ECI REC sponsored "Making an Impact," an event offering workshops and training to assist schools, communities, and organizations in character development initiatives. ♦

"This year's group was largest group yet, with 51 attendees," said Greg Pavelka, ECI REC marketing and economic development director.

The training and workshops are organized by the Institute for Character Development called Character Counts! through Drake University. Instructors focus on giving participants the tools to instill in both youth and adults the six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

The newly-trained character-builders will now be able to touch the lives of countless people of all ages. "We enjoyed the class and plan to incorporate many ideas into our own teaching this coming year," said Kirk and MaTina Clark of North Butler Middle/High School and Allison-Bristow Community Schools.

"ECI REC believes in the six pillars of character. These workshops are one of the greatest contributions ECI REC can make. These sessions help educators to help our youth become better people—it's a win-win for all," said Greg.



*Trustworthiness Respect Responsibility Fairness Caring Citizenship*

### IUB Offers Grants for Weatherization Assistance

For the fourth consecutive year, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) is coordinating Iowa's annual community-based initiative to weatherize homes for Iowans in need before the winter heating season. The IUB encourages community groups across Iowa to participate in the 2008 Iowa Weatherization Challenge by applying for either the new community grant of up to \$5,000 or for a matching grant of up to \$500.

The community grant of up to \$5,000 is available for one community with a population of 10,000 or less. It is intended to be used by the recipient to develop comprehensive weatherization and energy-efficiency events and educate the community residents on these topics.

The IUB will also offer matching grants of up to \$500 to as many as ten organizations throughout Iowa, to be used to weatherize homes and provide educational materials for Iowa's low-income families, elderly, or disabled individuals. Participating groups are asked to raise initial funds up to \$500 for weatherization events in their local communities.

All grant awards will be earmarked for weatherization projects to be completed in Iowa by November 30, 2008. The IUB will receive grant applications beginning August 1, 2008. Grant information, including application forms and related materials, is available at [www.state.ia.us/iub](http://www.state.ia.us/iub).