

## Students Prepare for a Trip to the Capitol



Dustin Toale



Logan Halverson

Two high school juniors, Dustin Toale and Logan Halverson, have been selected to represent East-Central Iowa REC on the 2011 Iowa Electric Cooperatives' Annual Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., June 11–16.

Toale, a student at Independence High School, is involved in tennis, swim team, IHS music, the Iowa Bar Association, and the student council (where he serves as junior class representative), all while carrying a 4.0 grade point average. In addition to his school activities, Toale is a member of Saint John's Catholic Church, Lion's Club Leo Club for youth, and Boy Scouts of America—where he received his Eagle Scout award in 2009. During the summer, Toale works as a public pool lifeguard, a public library assistant, and a maintenance assistant at Bank Iowa. His parents are Terry and Susie Toale of Independence.

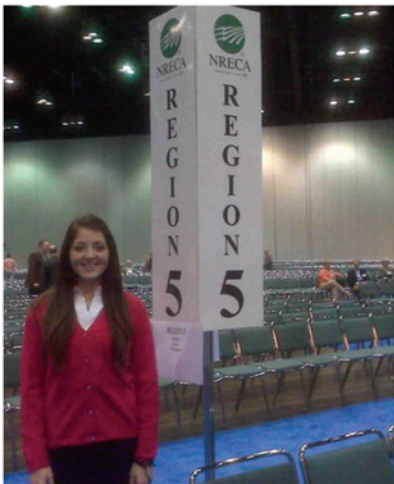
Also a junior at Independence, Halverson is involved in speech, is a member of the concert band and concert choir, plays tennis, and carries a 4.0 grade point. Logan is a member of the First United Methodist Church and Boy Scouts of America, where he recently received his

Eagle Scout honor. Halverson is currently working towards his private pilot's license. His parents, Julie Falcon and Tom Halverson, are of Independence.

Toale and Halverson will get the chance to meet and talk with their elected representatives and senators, attend educational seminars, and visit historic landmarks.

For more information on the Washington Youth Tour program and how you can participate, contact Greg Pavelka at ECI REC at 319-443-3564 or [greg.pavelka@ecirec.coop](mailto:greg.pavelka@ecirec.coop), or log on to ECI's Web site at [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop).

## ECI REC Teen Has “Amazing Experience” With National Leadership Council



Connor Roth at the Youth Leadership Council in Florida.

Connor Roth of Luzerne recently returned from Orlando, Florida, where she served on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) during its 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this March 7-9. Roth, sponsored by East-Central Iowa REC, represented all of Iowa on the YLC, a national leadership group

formed by NRECA and composed of 40 students from across the country.

YLC members played an important role in NRECA's Annual Meeting, which drew more than 8,000 electric co-op leaders from around the country. YLC members were able to participate in educational forums and become

familiar with national issues affecting electric cooperatives and the consumers they serve. Roth worked at the NRECA Congressional Action Center, encouraging cooperative members to contact their senators and representatives on key co-op issues, including protecting consumers and keeping electricity rates affordable. “It was really cool to be part of NRECA's Annual Meeting,” Roth said. “I learned so much about the energy industry and how public policy affects it. And I met people from all across the country. It was an amazing experience.”

The YLC is an extension of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, a group of more than 1,500 high school students who are sponsored jointly by NRECA, local electric cooperatives, and statewide associations in 45 states. Roth was one of last year's ECI REC representatives on the Youth Tour, and was then selected as Iowa's representative to attend the NRECA Youth Leadership Council. She participated in a weeklong summer leadership conference in Washington, D.C., with other YLC representatives, where they took courses on leadership and delivered a speech on what inspired them during the June Youth Tour.

## Rotary Club Hears About the Future of Electricity



Craig Fricke, vice president of Business Operations, COO, and Jerry Barker, enterprise risk management director of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), spoke to the Independence Rotary Club on February 8 about the future of electric generation. Noting that the generation fleet in the Midwest is reaching the end of its life, they explained how environmental concerns have made it difficult to replace the aging plants with coal plants. Though they addressed safety and expense concerns associated with nuclear energy, Fricke and Barker emphasized the importance of diversifying Iowa's future power supply beyond natural gas.