

## **TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.**

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### **Plymouth High School Teacher Wins Grant and All Expense Paid Trip**

**PANTEGO, NC** –A dedicated team of Plymouth High School teachers definitely makes the grade when it comes to going the extra mile for students. Teachers Charlene Evans, Patricia Moye, Christi Rogerson and Connie Smith are members of a grant writing team led by fellow teacher Nicholas McIntosh. Their grant application, entitled “TI: More than 84 Ways to Go,” was selected for funding by Tideland Electric Membership Corporation (EMC).

The team received \$1,920 to purchase 16 Texas Instruments TI-84 graphing calculators. The calculators will be invaluable to high schoolers studying algebra, geometry, pre-calculus and advanced functions and modeling. While students would ideally purchase their own graphing calculators to pursue advanced mathematical studies, at \$120 per device, cost can be a real obstacle. “That’s the purpose of Tideland EMC’s Bright Ideas grant program,” said company spokesperson Heidi Jernigan Smith, referring to the focus on providing innovative classroom tools that go unmet through traditional funding sources.

The calculators will also be utilized in tutoring sessions, Math Club meetings and in preparation for students taking college entrance exams or participating in math competitions with other schools. The TI-84, equipped with a universal serial bus (USB),

is also compatible with interactive classroom whiteboards allowing teachers full classroom display capabilities.

Working in groups, student will focus on researching and analyzing real world trends and displaying the assembled data in a variety of graphs and statistical formats.

McIntosh learned that his team's project had been selected for funding during a surprise visit by Tideland to the school complete with a large, sweepstakes like check. The real check was delivered to the Plymouth educators during an awards dinner hosted by the Electric Cooperatives of Eastern Carolina at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville. The evening culminated in a grand prize drawing during which McIntosh was named the recipient of an all expense paid scholarship to attend a week long seminar at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT). With campuses at Ocracoke and Cullowhee, NCCAT provides public school teachers with intensive cross-disciplinary seminars in the sciences, arts, humanities, technology, leadership and communication. The goal of NCCAT is to advance teaching as an art and profession so good educators will be encouraged to continue teaching.

In addition to the Plymouth High School grant, Tideland EMC presented 9 other awards to teachers in Beaufort, Craven and Pamlico counties. The Bright Ideas classroom grant program is conducted annually by the state's electric cooperatives. Interested teachers may apply for the next round of funding at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

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Photo: Plymouth High School teacher Nicholas McIntosh found himself in Tideland EMC's Bright Ideas winners' circle.