



## Media Release

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### **Local Students Earn Youth Leadership Spots**

Two area high school juniors will represent Pearl River Valley Electric in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership program. Allison (Ally) Ratliff of Forrest County AHS and Kori Miles of Columbia High School are the winners of this year's essay/interview contest. As a result, each student will participate in a leadership conference in Jackson and a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Pearl River Valley Electric selects the winners from essays submitted by students throughout its 12-county service area, and then through interviews with the finalists. This year's essay topic required students to discuss how PRVEPA has helped benefit Association members since being organized in the 1930's, as well as how it can continue to serve members into the future.

Ratliff, 17, is the daughter of John Ratliff and Thelma Keith. A Hattiesburg-area resident, she is an award-winning student at FCAHS and a member of the National Honor Society, HOSA, Beta Club, First Priority and student council. She is also a member of the Lady Aggie soccer team and participates in Spirit Girls outside of school. In her spare time, Ally enjoys reading, baking and photography.

Miles, 17, is the daughter of Derrick and Latashia Owens of Columbia. Kori is on the A and B honor roll at CHS and participates on the tennis team and in school musicals. She is in the Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Book Club and Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). Kori also enjoys singing, reading and writing.

In late February, Ally and Kori joined more than 80 other students from around the state in Jackson for the 31st annual Mississippi Youth Leadership Workshop, where they met with legislators and took part in leadership training sessions (see next month's *Today in Mississippi* for more information). They will also meet up with thousands of other students from around the country in June to attend the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington. There they will have opportunities to meet their Congressmen, tour the U.S. Capitol and do lots of other site seeing.

Six other area high school juniors were finalists in this year's contest: Kennedy Hudson of Purvis High School; Anna Nobles of Sumrall High School; Paul Anderson of Oak Grove High School; and Presbyterian Christian School students Nathan Griffin, John Morris Pecunia, and Rocco "Trey" Barbieri.

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