



## **Local Teacher Wins Statewide “Early Bird” Contest for Bright Ideas Grant Program**

Marie Jenkins from Northeastern High School, in Elizabeth City, was selected from more than 424 teachers who entered the statewide Bright Ideas Early Bird incentive contest. Jenkins won a Canon PowerShot digital camera to use in her classroom.

Each year teachers can submit applications for school projects they wish to have funded through a competitive grant process administered by Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. Teachers who apply early qualify for an “Early Bird” drawing for a digital camera.

The deadline for submitting a Bright Ideas grant application is Sept. 28. Teachers will be notified of the contest results by the middle of October.

“Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation thanks all of the teachers who have applied for the grants and for all of the hard work they do on behalf of their students,” said Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC.

This school year, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives will award more than \$530,000 in Bright Ideas grants to the state’s school teachers.

All North Carolina certified K-12 teachers are eligible to apply for a Bright Ideas grant in 2007. Bright Ideas provides grants to teachers for classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives have financed a variety of hands-on projects, including activities in music, art, history, language, reading, science, career-planning and information technology.

During the 2006 school year, the Bright Ideas program surpassed the \$4.5 million mark in grant awards made to North Carolina’s teachers. The program has funded more than 4,000 projects, which have involved more than 800,000 students. Bright Ideas reflects the Touchstone Energy cooperatives’ commitment to community.

Albemarle EMC, based near Hertford, is a member-owned, nonprofit electrical co-op that serves more than 12,000 consumers. The service territory includes the counties of Chowan, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden and a part of Currituck.

