

Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Scholarship Program:

Energizing the Next Generation Workforce



**\$100,000+ in
scholarship dollars
awarded since 2017**



**Aims to bring diverse
candidates into the
energy efficiency industry**



**Changes the lives of
dozens of promising
students every year**

The success of the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program depends largely on our statewide network of Program Allies, specially trained contractors that help customers install energy-saving equipment. To strengthen and add diversity to this network, in 2017 Ameren Illinois created an Energy Efficiency Scholarship Program to help train the next generation of workers in energy-efficient Construction Occupations and HVACR.

Our unique scholarship program provides a much-needed source of funding for students in hands-on trade programs — programs that directly benefit the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program and its customers.

“Ameren Illinois values diversity in our workplace, our communities — and in the companies we do business with,” says Angie Ostaszewski, Manager, Clean Energy Transition at Ameren Illinois. “Our Energy Efficiency Scholarship Program proactively addresses a need for diverse, skilled labor in our Program Ally network, and in the energy efficiency industry overall.”

Since the program launched, more than 186 scholarships have been awarded at seven community colleges in Illinois. Scholarship recipients receive stipends that help offset the cost of attending school, such as tuition, fees, books and other related expenses.

Looking beyond a student’s GPA, Ameren Illinois works closely with school instructors to identify promising diverse candidates based on attitude, performance and work ethic — students like Diego White and Kylie Hart. Both are pursuing associate’s degrees at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois.

Diego applied for the Energy Efficiency Scholarship Program because he wanted to alleviate the financial burden on his parents. “Anything I can do to help out my family I will do,” says Diego, a former soccer player who loves to work with his hands.

Inspired by his father’s advice to find a job that he loves, Diego attends Lincoln Land Community College, where he is pursuing a certificate in HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) repair. “Once I accomplish this, I hope to obtain a job which will provide me financial security in a field that I will enjoy,” he says.

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— Angie Ostaszewski,
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Kylie was inspired to pursue a career as an electrician — and follow in her father’s footsteps — after job shadowing her dad as he performed electrical work for a robotics company. She enjoys every opportunity to gain hands-on experience in her favorite class: residential and commercial wiring.

“Learning about this field has brought me great joy so far, and I plan to make it my career,” says Kylie. “I will always do everything in my power to reach my goals. Having this scholarship makes them more attainable, and I will always be grateful for that.”