



NRG Announces Winners of Annual Cosgrove Scholarship Program

July 6, 2015

Competitive Scholarship Program Awards Up To \$240,000 for Excellence in Classroom and Community

Princeton, NJ – July 6, 2015 – NRG Energy today announced the recipients of the fifth annual Howard E. Cosgrove Academic Scholarship. The scholarship provides the four winners up to \$60,000 each in pursuit of a four year undergraduate degree. The winners were determined based on outstanding academic achievements and activities outside of the classroom as children of NRG employees.

Funded by NRG and established in 2011, the NRG Howard E. Cosgrove Academic Scholarship is named after NRG's Chairman of the Board in recognition of his lifetime of support for educational organizations. Cosgrove has served as chair of the United Negro College Fund Annual Campaign of Delaware, on the Delaware State School Board and Chair of the Board of Trustees for the University of Delaware.

This year's winners were chosen on the basis of merit by the NRG Howard Cosgrove Scholarship Committee, a select group of prominent community leaders in the areas of education, philanthropy and private industry.

These young inspiring leaders from the NRG family are full of incredible ideas and drive that will inevitably make our world a better place," said David Crane, CEO of NRG. "All of us who work at NRG should be proud of the Cosgrove winners and the other find young women and men who applied for the scholarship."

The recipients of this year's Cosgrove Scholarship are:

- **Shilpa Sadagopan**, will attend the University of Pennsylvania as a Benjamin Franklin Scholar pursuing an integrated studies program. A graduate of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Shilpa received classical music training and was a participant in Golden Voices of America: a classical music competition for which she was selected to perform at the renowned Carnegie Hall. A founder of her high school's Glee Club, Shilpa also performed the national anthem at an NBA Houston Rockets game after winning the regional Let Freedom Sing competition. Shilpa's father, Rishi Sadagopan works in NRG's Houston office in the Engineering and Construction Accounting department. An aspiring performing artist, Shilpa has also sung at Houston's Jones Hall with the Houston Symphony Orchestra.
- **Luke Bonanni**, will attend Johns Hopkins University pursuing studies in Science and Economics. As a senior at Cherry Hill High School in Cherry Hill, NJ, Luke conducted a study looking at the effects of fracking and how to minimize its impacts on tap water. The study won first place in the lauded Coriell Institute Science Fair, which awards young scientists for exceptional performance in demonstrating their passion for topics ranging from biochemistry to computer science. The son of NRG's John Bonanni, who works in the Princeton, NJ office in Settlements, Luke spent four years as a volunteer tutor to middle school students, founded his high school's Economics and Investing clubs and participated for three years in DECA-- a competition designed to prepare students for careers and education in business, winning first place in his final year of competition. Luke was also a member of the first place regional team in the University of North Carolina's National High School Ethics Bowl for their work on an ethics case focusing on a morally complex situation.
- **James Rose**, will attend University of California, San Diego and will pursue a degree in Computer Engineering. A graduate of Eastlake High School, James is academically recognized as both a Principal's Honors Student and a Scholar of Distinction for passing five Advance Placement exams. James has also built a computer from scratch and earned a first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. The son of David Rose, an employee at NRG's Encina Power Station in Carlsbad, CA, James is an active member of the American Red Cross Club, where he donates blood and takes the time to honor veterans through written correspondence. As a hobby, James has put his engineering prowess to task, having built his own metal furnace, used to smelt recyclable metals. He plans to use his developed byproduct to produce art.
- **Shashank Vura**, will pursue studies in Business and Politics at Cornell University this fall. The son of Nanda Vura who works in the Process Improvement department at NRG's Houston office, Shashank attended John Foster Dulles High School in Sugar Land, TX. Graduating with high honors as member of the National Honor Society, Shashank was also inducted into the National Spanish Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta's Math Honors Society. As part of his extraordinary efforts outside of the classroom, Shashank volunteered to educate impoverished students on a wide range of subjects at a youth hospital in Hyderabad, India. For a year and a half, Shashank also served as Historian of the Texas Mayor's Youth Council, where he engaged students in civic life and was also a three-year participant in the World Affairs Councils of America's Academic World Quest competition, for which his team was ranked fourth nationally for their acumen in global affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Shashank also completed an internship with Rice University's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology lab.

NRG is honored to recognize and support the academic careers of these accomplished students.

About NRG

NRG is leading a customer-driven change in the U.S. energy industry by delivering cleaner and smarter energy choices, while building on the strength of the nation's largest and most diverse competitive power portfolio. A Fortune 200 company, we create value through reliable and efficient conventional generation while driving innovation in solar and renewable power, electric vehicle ecosystems, carbon capture technology and customer-centric energy solutions. Our retail electricity providers serve almost 3 million residential and commercial customers throughout the country. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com. Connect with NRG Energy on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @nrgenergy.

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