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**New River Light and Power Public Communications Specialist receives leadership award**

**New Orleans, Louisiana, June 10, 2025** — Mariana Greene, Public Communications Specialist for New River Light and Power, North Carolina, received the Robert E. Roundtree Rising Star Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award is a scholarship presented to future leaders in public power. Cain will receive a stipend to travel to one of APPA’s conferences or training programs to advance her education and development in public power.

Mariana serves as the Public Communications Specialist for New River Light and Power, North Carolina. With a passion for empowering communities through effective outreach and strategic advocacy, she is committed to NRLP's mission of educating and engaging customers while providing safe and reliable energy. Mariana serves as NRLP's "one-stop shop" for all communications, from marketing campaigns to fostering meaningful relationships with key stakeholders. Mariana was a key team member in spearheading the 2024-2028 strategic plan, which played a critical role in NRLP receiving their recent recognitions for the ElectriCities Public Power Awards of Excellence and APPA’s Smart Energy Provider. During Hurricane Helene, Mariana provided significant time and support to NRLP customers through constant communication updates on social media and NRLP’s website. Last year she received the ElectriCities of North Carolina Rising Star Award.

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*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*