

# Proud Professionals Lineworkers Are Key to Cooperative's Success

## PEC joins effort to prepare a new generation of workers

Pedernales Electric looks forward to partnering with Austin Community College, which recently introduced a two-year utility lineworker associate of applied science degree and a technical certificate. The new program will help meet the needs of the rapidly growing energy industry. Pedernales Electric fully supports this unique educational opportunity.

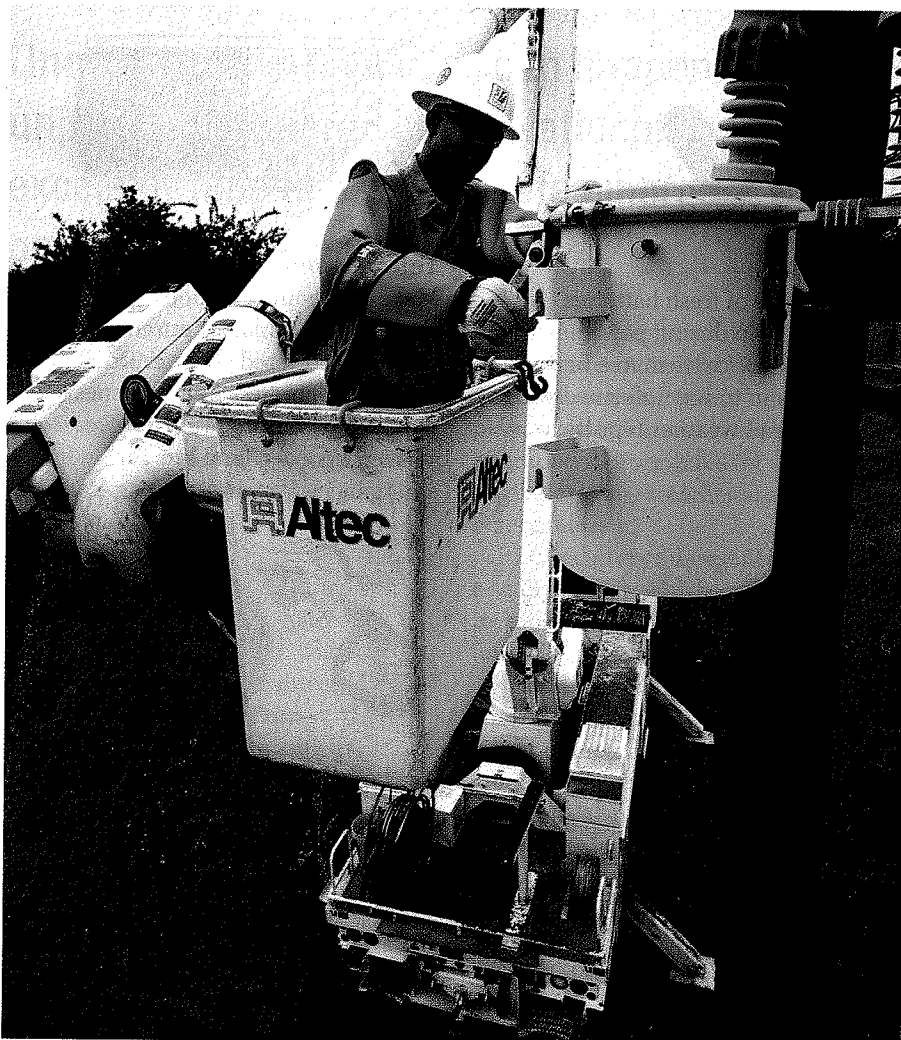
"The electric industry is evolving, and it is important that lineworkers are formally trained and have a solid

foundation from the start," Canyon Lake District Manager and former lineman Bob DiFonzo said. "ACC's new program can provide that strong foundation and exceptional job opportunities here in Central Texas."

The college expects the program will address a current shortage of lineworkers and an aging workforce by preparing a new generation of workers in the electric industry. As demands for electric power grow and new energy sources emerge, the need

for trained lineworkers is expected to increase. The Texas Workforce Commission projects a 20 percent job growth in the industry between 2006 and 2016.

"Pedernales Electric absolutely depends on its well-trained lineworkers to keep the lights on safely," said Junction District Manager and veteran lineman Ted Mason. "Their expertise and dedication is one of the reasons we have such an outstanding reliability record."



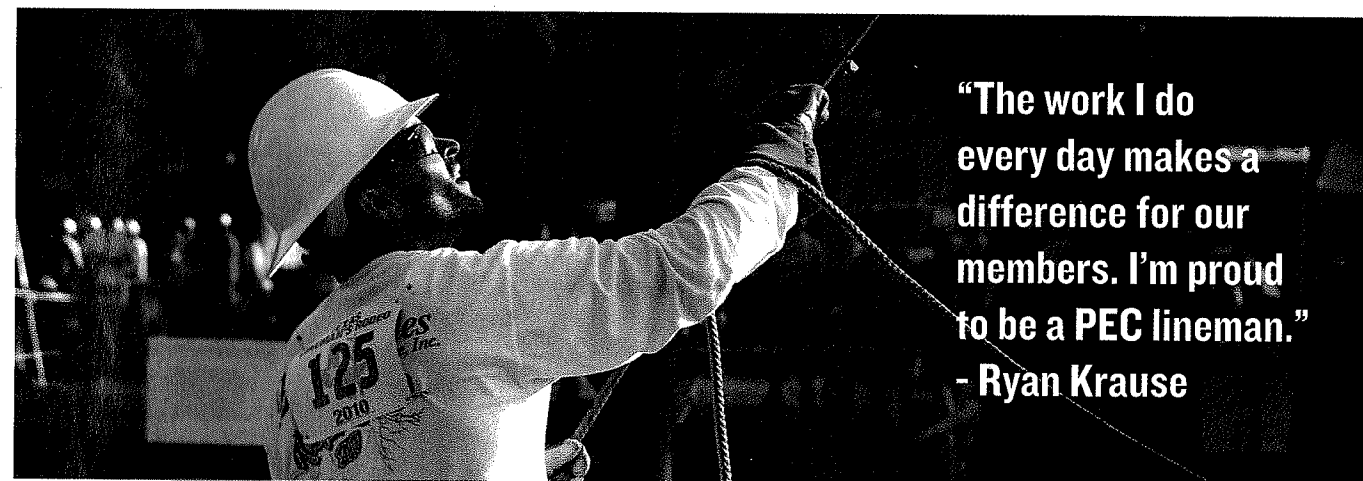
### Interested in a career in utility linework?

Austin Community College is hosting an information session **September 25** for prospective students interested in the utility lineworker program. The session will give attendees more information about the program, so they can register in time for the college's spring 2011 semester.

Visit [www.austincc.edu/choices/lineworker](http://www.austincc.edu/choices/lineworker) to reserve a spot in the information session. For more information about the utility lineworker program or to determine qualification for one of several program scholarships, contact Vidal Almanza at 512-223-6404 or e-mail [vman@austincc.edu](mailto:vman@austincc.edu).



To learn more about a career with PEC, visit [www.pec.coop](http://www.pec.coop).



"The work I do every day makes a difference for our members. I'm proud to be a PEC lineman."  
- Ryan Krause

## PEC Shines at 14th Annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo

Demonstrating their skill and expertise in the complex profession of linework, three PEC linemen placed first in five apprentice events at the Texas Lineman's Rodeo on July 17.

Eric Bitzko placed first in the secondary URD installation and overhead secondary service installation events; Brandon Dance placed first in the hurtman rescue and pole climb events; and Mark Moreno placed first in the rope event. It was the first time that PEC competed in the annual event, hosted by the Texas Lineman's Rodeo Association; 25 PEC linemen were among the 160-plus competitors.

PEC Safety Instructor Robby Lewis, a former lineman, said the event showcases the skills that PEC linemen bring to the job every day. "The fact that PEC won five first-place awards is a testament to the technique and expertise that our linemen use to keep our members' lights on. It's a complicated job that few people understand, and this competition gives our linemen a chance to be judged on their skills in a safe environment," Lewis said. "Safety is job one, whether we're doing our jobs in the field or competing in the Lineman's Rodeo."

In addition to building camaraderie and creating a congenial spirit of

competition among linemen from numerous Central Texas electric utilities, the rodeo gives linemen a chance to review the safety procedures that are an integral part of their often dangerous work.

"Practicing for and competing in the rodeo gave us hours of additional safety training and allowed our managers and supervisors to reinforce the importance of critical safety procedures," said PEC Canyon Lake District Manager Bob DiFonzo. "We hire and train the most skilled, knowledgeable, and safety-conscious linemen, and they demonstrated their expertise well in this competition."



Top: PEC lineman Ryan Krause competes in the 600 amp switch change event. Left: While perched on a utility pole, lineman Chris Holt competes in one of the rodeo's events. Right: Apprentice linemen Mark Moreno, Eric Bitzko, and Brandon Dance proudly display the trophies they won at the Texas Lineman's Rodeo.