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Plant Telecommunications Sponsors a National Telecommunications Scholarship



(Washington, D.C.) – The Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) awarded \$59,500 in scholarships to some of the most outstanding students rural America has to offer. A total of 53 students were selected to receive scholarships from the organization. Close to 200 applicants applied to this program this year.

Plant Telecommunications, an OPASTCO Member company, was proud to have sponsored one of these scholarship winners from its telephone exchange in Pinehurst. Heather Johnson, 2007 Honor Graduate, was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. This student's exceptional academic record, her proven leadership skills and her determination to incorporate loyalty and perseverance into her life made her a prime candidate for this scholarship. Heather will be attending Georgia Southwestern State University in the fall pursuing a career in nursing. Being the respected, competitive woman that she is with her exceptional background and self confidence, Heather should have no problem becoming a nurse that will make a positive impact on society.

Melissa Korzuch, Foundation Director said, “This year, we awarded \$59,500 total in scholarships, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the OPASTCO Member companies that support the scholarship program with their donations to the Foundation.” For the third year in a row, there were no FRED scholarships awarded under the amount of \$1,000.

FRED is a national 501(c)(3) charitable foundation located in Washington, D.C., and was founded in 1989 by the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO). The mission of FRED and its supporters is to promote educational, social and economic development in rural America and Canada. The FRED Scholarship Program is made possible through the generosity of more than 1,000 small, independent telecommunications companies operating in rural areas across the United States and Canada and the companies that provide goods and services to these companies. Only OPASTCO member companies are eligible to nominate a student.

“Small telephone companies are a valuable asset to their rural communities. Our goal is to work with all OPASTCO members to create educational opportunities for rural America’s best resource—its young people,” FRED President Chris Becker said.