

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

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The Foundation for Rural Service offers scholarships in 2017

(Clovis, N.M.)...The Foundation for Rural Service will award scholarships to qualified rural students in late spring 2017, per geographic region of the NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, and one to a student sponsored by an NTCA associate member. The awards will be distributed proportionate to the number of applications received from each NTCA region. The FRS will fund \$2,000 of each scholarship, with the sponsoring organization of each winning student providing a \$500 match. Plateau is proud to join the FRS to, once again, bring this opportunity to the rural students of eastern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle.

In addition, the FRS will award four \$5,000 Staurulakis Family Scholarships with a preference to those applicants who plan to major in math, science, engineering or medicine; two \$1,500 TMS Scholarships; and one \$7,000 Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship.

The deadline for applications for the FRS Scholarship Program is February 1, 2017. Applications must be postmarked by that date to qualify. Applications have been distributed to local high school guidance offices and Plateau retail stores (Clayton, Clovis, Farwell, Fort Sumner, Logan, Santa Rosa and Vaughn), and an electronic version can also be found at <http://www.plateautel.com/company/scholarships/> or by contacting Plateau, FRS Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 1947, Clovis, NM 88102-1947, phone 1.575.389.4241, toll free 1.800.432.2369, or email jrj@plateautel.com.

Those wishing to apply for the scholarship must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a dependent of an active Cooperative member who is currently receiving landline telephone service from Plateau in one of the Cooperative's 26 service exchange areas (see application for complete details). (Subscriptions to services other than landline telephone provided by Plateau do not qualify. Landline service outside the Cooperative's exchange area does not qualify.)
- Be accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.
- Have at least a "C" grade point average (GPA).
- Express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.

The FRS, in cooperation with the NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, the FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth. The NTCA is the premier non-profit association representing more than 800 rural telecom companies. Plateau is a proud, active member of the NTCA.

Formed in 1949 as Eastern New Mexico Rural Telephone Cooperative, Plateau provides advanced telecommunications services including voice, internet or video to residents in all or parts of 19 eastern New Mexico counties and three in the Texas Panhandle.

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