



**For Immediate Release
PRESS RELEASE**

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Local students awarded national FRS Scholarships

(Clovis, N.M.)...Plateau is pleased to announce that seniors Tamia M. Higgins and Danika E. Nelson are each recipients of college scholarships from the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), the philanthropic arm of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA). Ms. Higgins won one of 33 \$2,500 FRS Scholarships and will graduate from Fort Sumner High School this month. Ms. Nelson won the sole \$7,000 Everett Kneece Scholarship, in honor of the generous philanthropist who had a passion for rural America, and will graduate from Texico High School.

The FRS scholarship program awarded over \$107,500 in scholarships to 53 rural youth across the United States. The goal of the scholarship program is to help further higher education opportunities among rural high school students. To be eligible, recipients must be sponsored by an NTCA member system and must indicate a desire to return to their rural communities once their collegiate studies have been completed. Plateau is an active member of the NTCA and is excited to be a part of this worthy program.

"Our team at FRS looks forward to scholarship season each year—recognizing students who have proven their academic prowess and showcase a remarkable love and appreciation for their communities reminds us why what we do each and every day has such a real, tangible impact," said FRS Executive Director Jessica Golden. "We thank all of our donors who make this program possible and wish all awardees the best in their future endeavors."

A full list of scholarship winners is available online at: <https://www.frs.org/programs/scholarships#winner>

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Formed in 1949 as Eastern New Mexico Rural Telephone Cooperative, Plateau provides advanced communications services including voice, Internet and video to residents in all or parts of 18 eastern New Mexico counties and four in the Texas Panhandle.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association and its members, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in rural America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. FRS is committed to educational achievement in rural communities, recognizing that tomorrow’s economic and civic development depends on the involvement and commitment of today’s youth.

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA advocates on behalf of its members in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and it provides training and development; publications and industry events; and an array of employee benefit programs. In an era of transformative technological advancements, regulatory challenges and marketplace competition, NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Because of their efforts, rural America is fertile ground for innovation in economic development, e-commerce, health care, agriculture and education, and it contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy each year.