



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

October 16, 2009

Dear OPASTCO Telephone Company Member:

On behalf of the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED), I am pleased to inform you that the 2010 Scholarship Program brochures are now available. Next year, we will award at least \$70,000 in scholarships to the best and brightest students from rural America. I hope one of them is from your company!

FRED's scholarship program is in its 18th year and is the longest running program we offer. All OPASTCO members may participate in this program at no cost. Students who live or attend school in your company's service area may apply for the scholarships, which range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The *Everette Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship* honors Mr. Kneece's vital and pioneering efforts on behalf of FRED and is awarded in the amount of \$5,000 to the year's top applicant.

Enclosed is a copy of the scholarship brochure that I ask you to share with your area high school. If your company serves more than one high school, you may make photocopies of this brochure, download additional copies from our website, or request more hard copies from FRED's program assistant (see below). I also recommend that you post the brochure link on your company's website to help attract additional interest from students in your community. The direct link to the scholarship application is www.fred.org/pdfs/2010scholarship.pdf. The deadline to apply is February 8, 2010. Students are requested to have their applications into their nominating companies by January 29, 2010 to allow for letters of recommendation to be prepared.

If your company has never participated in any FRED program, make 2010 the year you get involved. If you have any questions about the scholarship program, please contact Rebecca Yarbrough, program assistant, at 202/659-5990 or by e-mail at rly@opastco.org.

Sincerely,

Karen Kohne, FRED President

Enclosure: 2010 FRED Scholarship Brochure