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## News and Views



### FRED & OPASTCO Are Moving

As of December 31, 2009, the FRED and OPASTCO offices will be moving from the Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C. Our new address is *2020 K Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006*. Please be sure to mail all program applications, donations and correspondence to this new address after December 31, 2009.

### Small Telco Compensation & Benefits Survey

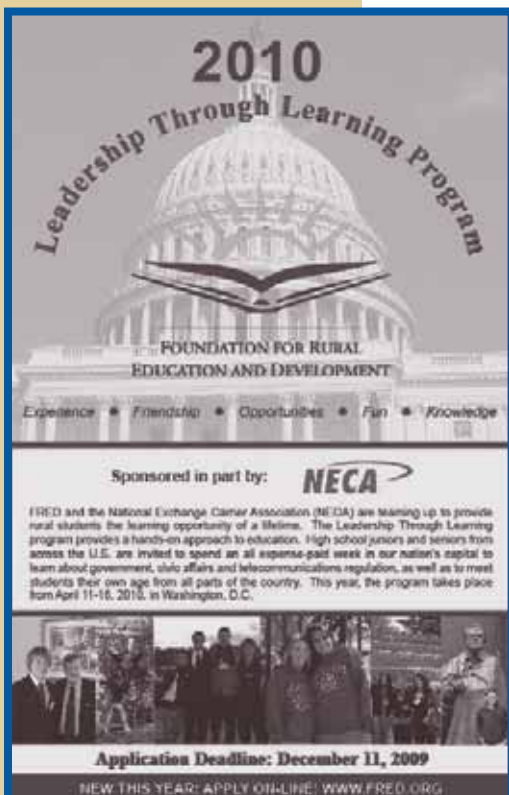
Each year, a Small Telecommunications Compensation & Benefits Survey is sponsored by FRED and OPASTCO. The lead researcher is Dr. Robert Mathis of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The 2009 Survey includes information on more than 65 jobs, as well as a number of benefits areas. The publication is available in CD and paper format. Prices vary depending on OPASTCO membership affiliation and participation in the survey. For an order form, visit [www.fred.org](http://www.fred.org) and click on "News and Publications."

### Rural Students Have Opportunity to Visit D.C.

FRED is pleased to announce that the applications for the 2010 Leadership Through Learning program are now available. High school juniors and seniors living in OPASTCO service areas are encouraged to apply. A new online application has been added this year to make applying easier. Students may apply online or use the traditional PDF brochure. The deadline to apply is *December 11, 2009*. Brochures were mailed to all telcos in September, and both the online and PDF application may be accessed at [www.fred.org/ltl.html](http://www.fred.org/ltl.html).

### TELERGEE Survey Now Available

CoBank and FRED are pleased to offer the 2009 TELERGEE Benchmark Survey, which includes 2008 year-end financial data from more than 200 rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) nationwide. All participants in the study are clients of TELERGEE member CPA firms. Each TELERGEE firm supplies the financial statements that go into producing the benchmarks presented in the study. Surveys are now being distributed electronically. To order your copy, visit [www.fred.org](http://www.fred.org) and click on "News and Publications."



**2010**  
*Leadership Through Learning Program*

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL  
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Experience • Friendship • Opportunities • Fun • Knowledge

Sponsored in part by: **NECA**

FRED and the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) are teaming up to provide rural students the learning opportunity of a lifetime. The Leadership Through Learning program provides a hands-on approach to education. High school juniors and seniors from across the U.S. are invited to spend an all expenses-paid week in our nation's capital to learn about government, civic affairs and telecommunications regulation, as well as to meet students their own age from all parts of the country. This year, the program takes place from April 11-16, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

**Application Deadline: December 11, 2009**

NEW THIS YEAR: APPLY ONLINE! [WWW.FRED.ORG](http://WWW.FRED.ORG)

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## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Yellow Ribbons Signify FRED Supporters at Convention

As part of FRED's 20th Birthday Celebration at the OPASTCO summer convention this past July, yellow name badge ribbons were included in the packets of all registrants who have supported FRED. These were persons or companies who had bought tickets to a FRED event, participated in the FRED Taxes campaign, made a donation along with their OPASTCO dues, nominated a scholarship recipient, nominated a high school student for the Leadership Through Learning program, or received an Ethyl Grant or a Technology Grant.

At the close of my remarks at the FRED presentation during the convention's Tuesday morning meeting, I asked for everyone who was displaying a yellow ribbon on their name badge to stand. And I asked for those generous donors to remain standing while I encouraged past, current and future sponsors of FRED events and programs to look around the room and to realize something. *Each person standing represented not just himself or herself, but an entire community of people who have benefited through playground equipment in their parks, computers for their schools and libraries, handicap access to community centers, communication equipment for their police and fire departments, scholarships for the sons and daughters of their townspeople, and trips to Washington, D.C. for their high school leaders.*

I concluded my remarks that morning with what will be my watchwords during my tenure as president of the FRED board. *If technology is the brains and the brawn of OPASTCO, then I believe FRED is its heart and its soul.* I remain hopeful that as long as OPASTCO exists, all of you will see to it that it has a heart and a soul.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Karen L. Kohne".

Karen Kohne  
FRED President



Members of the FRED Board of Directors during a break from their meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Leadership Opportunity for High School Juniors and Seniors



In late 2001, FRED teamed up with NECA to create the Leadership Through (LTL) Learning program. Despite the September 11th terrorist attacks, FRED proceeded with launching the program in early 2002. Much to my surprise, all the students selected for the program were in attendance that April, the inaugural year. Looking back, I remember that time in Washington, D.C., being very unpredictable, yet the students paid no attention and soaked up everything the city had to offer. Those remarkable 10 students and the 103 who came after them have made this program an outstanding success. Several students went on to receive FRED scholarships and two received FRED's highest honor, the *Everette Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship* worth \$5,000. Surveys are given to each class of students after the program week. When asked if FRED should continue with the program for the following year, all 113 students answered, "yes."

This year, due to budgetary constraints, NECA, the program's sole sponsor, has to limit its support. As a result, the program may be cut back for 2010. Future plans are unknown, but we are doing everything we can to continue with the program.

Our Annual Giving Campaign, which begins later this year, will focus on supporting the LTL program. When the campaign brochures arrive in your mailbox, please show your support by making a tax-deductible donation to help us continue this worthwhile program. We also welcome support from telcos and associates who may be able to co-sponsor this program with NECA. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to offset the cost of bringing 10-14 students to Washington in 2010. Help us continue this tradition that provides rural students with an opportunity of a lifetime!

*Melissa Korzuch*

Melissa Korzuch  
Foundation Director  
mak@opastco.org



2009 Leadership Through Learning program students visit the OPASTCO office (above and upper right) and meet with their congressional representatives (right) while in D.C.

## FRED Taxes Campaign

### \$1,000 Donors

North Dakota Telephone Company  
Pigeon Telephone Company  
South Central Telephone Association, Inc.

### \$400-700 Donors

BEVCOMM  
Enhanced Telecommunications Corporation  
Industry Telephone Company  
Manawa Telephone Company, Inc.  
Melrose Telephone Company  
Panhandle Telephone Company, Inc.  
Toledo Telephone Company, Inc.  
Totah Communications, Inc.

### \$200-\$300 Donors

Burkes Garden Telephone Company  
Central Oklahoma Telephone Company  
Cherokee Telephone Company  
Clear Lake Independent Telephone Company  
Farmers Mutual Telephone  
Henry County Telephone Company  
Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company  
Power & Telephone Supply Company  
S & A Telephone Company  
Twin Valley Telephone, Inc.  
Wahkiakum West Telephone

### Up to \$200 Donors

Community Telephone Company  
Gorham Telephone Company  
Home Telephone Company (IL)  
Monte R. Lee and Company  
Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Wilson Telephone Company, Inc.

## Annual Giving Campaign

### \$1,000 to \$2,000 Donors

Canadian Valley Telephone Company  
Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative

### \$500 Donors

Dubois Exchange, Inc.  
Hemingford Coop. Telephone Company  
Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc.

### \$20 to \$250 Donors

Shannon Lump  
South Central Telephone Association, Inc.  
Sycamore Telephone Company



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL  
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

# FRED's 20th Birthday Party Celebration

Cocktail Reception and Dessert Buffet

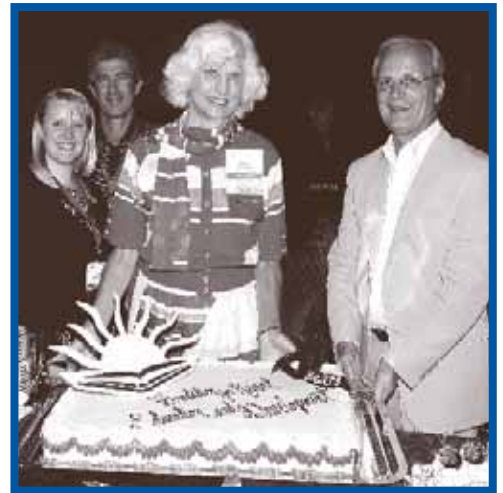
Hosted by: CoBank

Monday, July 27, 2009

Colorado Springs, Colo.

FRED's 20th birthday celebration by attending the party in Colorado Springs this summer. The lavish dessert buffet and complimentary cocktail reception included birthday cake, ice cream sundaes, a hosted bar, gourmet coffee delights and party festivities. Guests took a walk down memory lane to see photos from the past 20 years. The FRED Board of Directors and past presidents were on hand for a toast to FRED and to cut the elaborate cake created especially for the occasion. Karen Kohne, FRED's president, addressed the group, thanking everyone with a yellow ribbon for their support and for participating in FRED programs. Thanks to everyone who attended and to the many generous sponsors, \$25,000 was raised for FRED programs!

OPASTCO convention attendees shared in



## FRED Event Sponsors

**CoBank: Grand Sponsor**

**Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc.: Gourmet Coffee Station**

**JSI & JSI Capital Advisors, LLC: Entertainment and AV**

**Sierra Telephone: Décor and Programs**

**Pigeon Telephone Company: Sundae Bar**

## FRED Supporters

**Bennet & Bennet, PLLC; OPASTCO; Warinner, Gesinger & Associates, LLC; and Wheat State Telephone**

## FRED Birthday Donors

Andy Blum, in honor of BEVCOMM  
Andy Brown  
Linda Burton, Sierra Telephone  
Ed and Joyce Dailor  
Margaret Goatcher

Nortex Communications  
OmniTel  
Peter Rose, Pete Rose, Inc.  
Solarus  
Kristin Zimmerman



## “Year in FRED History” Donors

Arvig Communication Systems, 1996  
Bennet & Bennet, PLLC, 1995  
EPIC Touch Co., 1998  
Geneseo and Henry County Telephone Companies, 2001  
Granite State Telephone Inc., 1989  
TCA, 1999  
The Middleburgh Telephone Company, 2007  
WTC Communications, 2003



## Coming Up Next!



### Clambake-on-the-Beach Party

Monday, January 25, 2010, 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Hosted by: CoBank

Cost: \$150 Adults; \$100 Children

FRED will host a clambake as its fundraiser at the OPASTCO winter convention in San Diego. Spend a picturesque evening with friends and family as you enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional clambake on the beaches of the Hotel del Coronado. Live music will set the mood as you enjoy dinner beachside. The menu will include all the clambake favorites, including surf and turf options, and items the children will enjoy. Featured for dessert will be

an interactive s'mores buffet set up fireside. Hosted bars will be available throughout the evening. Be sure to bring along the children, who will enjoy the kids' corner. General seating will be provided for all in attendance. If you are part of a large group, please order a reserved table so everyone in your party is guaranteed a seat together. Tickets may be purchased through the OPASTCO registration form and include dinner, desserts, hosted beverages, entertainment and kids' activities. **Sponsorships are available. Contact Melissa Korzuch, FRED director, at [mak@opastco.org](mailto:mak@opastco.org) for more information. All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit FRED programs.**

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## **\$2,000 J. BENEDICT ACKLEY SCHOLARSHIP** *4-year Award*

CASSANDRA LLOYD  
The Middleburgh Telephone Company

## **\$2,000 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

ADAM HOERZ  
The Middleburgh Telephone Company

AMY SWENSON  
North Dakota Telephone Company

FAYELEN GERTEISEN  
Pierce Telephone Company, Inc.

JOSHUA DLABAL  
Wilson Telephone Company, Inc.

## **\$1,500 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

RACHEL THELEN  
Arvig Enterprises, Inc.

CHAD BERGSTROM  
Great Plains Communications, Inc.

KATHERINE HUGART  
Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Company

KRISTEN ECK  
South Central Telephone Association, Inc.

JERROD WILLIAMS  
TelAlaska, Inc.

## **\$1,000 INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS**

JACOB SONNEK  
BEVCOMM

## **\$1,000 CHARLES ZINSER, JR. SCHOLARSHIP**

*Funded by a donation from RTFC*  
JACI HAMEL  
Twin Valley Telephone, Inc.

## **\$1,000 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

TRICIA GLORIOSO, Armstrong Telephone  
Company of Pennsylvania

ERIC ASBE, Clear Lake Independent Telephone  
Company

BRYCE HUMPERT, Community Telephone  
Company

DANIELLE KUTZ, Comporium

LOGAN PORTIVENT, ComSouth Telecommunications

ANNA-MARIE VANUGA, Dubois Telephone  
Exchange, Inc.

CLAIRE LATTIRE, Enhanced Telecommunications  
Corp.

HUGH KROMER, FairPoint Communications

JAMIE ANDERSON, Geneseo Telephone Company

JORDANN SEIRER, Gorham Telephone Company

# A Word from the Program Coordinator

## 2009 FRED Scholarships

This April, FRED's scholarship committee selected the 2009 scholarship recipients. A total of \$72,500 was awarded to some of the most exceptional students rural America has to offer. More than 160 applications were submitted by rural, independent telecom companies, cooperatives and industry vendors. The 59 scholarship recipients come from 26 different states, are among the top of their classes and play an active role in extracurricular activities within their schools and communities. The 2009 *Everette Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship* was given to Park Region Telephone's outstanding student, Neil Turner. FRED also awarded the Chris Becker Past Presidential Scholarship to Canadian Valley Telephone Company's Jessica Crase. The other scholarships granted range from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Funding for the FRED scholarship program is provided by the Scholarship Endowment Fund, Program Endowment Fund, and donations made to the Annual Giving Campaign.

Be on the lookout for applications for the 2010 scholarship program in October 2009.

## 2009 Top Scholars

### **\$5,000**

### **EVERETTE KNEECE RETURN TO RURAL AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP NEIL TURNER, Park Region Mutual Telephone Company**

*Read about Neil on the front cover of the FRED Focus.*

### **\$2,000**

### **CHRIS BECKER PAST PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP JESSICA CRASE, Canadian Valley Telephone Company**



Jessica was ranked first in her class of 41 students with a 4.0 GPA. Not only was Jessica the valedictorian of her graduating class, she was on the Superintendent's Honor Roll all semesters. She has held many leadership positions in student council, Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, and the Oklahoma Honor Society. Jessica was a FRED Leadership Through Learning participant in 2008. She was a member of the Gifted & Talented Program, the History Club, FFA, 4-H, varsity basketball and softball. Her community service activities include

volunteering with the Red Cross, food drives, donation collection for troops overseas, toy drives, Pennies for Patients, peer tutoring, and the SMARTS Program. Jessica is currently attending Eastern Oklahoma State College. *Photo: Jessica (left) poses for a photo while visiting Capitol Hill during the 2008 Leadership Through Learning program.*

## FRED Awards Ethyl Grants



*FRED President Karen Kohne recognized Ethyl Grant Award winners at the OPASTCO summer convention in Colorado Springs, Colo. Also in photo: Andy Brown, Bennet and Bennet, PLLC (back, left); Ronald Kunkel, Nortel (back, right); Carlton Appelo, Wahkiakum West Telephone (center) and Roger Nishi, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telephone (right).*

In May, FRED awarded three Ethyl Grants to communities and schools that were nominated by OPASTCO telephone companies. These grants were funded by donations from Bennet & Bennet, PLLC, and Nortel Networks. The three projects met their matching funds requirements with a combination of volunteer hours, in-kind donations from other community groups, direct donations from the nominating telephone company, and donations from town citizens. Recipients of Ethyl Grants included:

LAUREL HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY, PENNSYLVANIA  
*Project: Cook Township Community Center, \$2,500*

WAHAKIACUM WEST TELEPHONE, WASHINGTON  
*Project: Wahkiakum Community Foundation, \$2,500*

OTELCO-MID-MISSOURI, MISSOURI  
*Project: Blackwater R-II School, \$2,500*

Ethyl Grants may be used to remove or improve an eyesore, create jobs, revamp a part of the town, or provide technology to schools. Applications are accepted year-round. More information about these projects and an application can be found at [www.fred.org/ethyl.html](http://www.fred.org/ethyl.html).

## Reminder About FRED Moving

If your company plans to submit an application for a FRED program in early 2010, please note that the FRED offices will be moving December 31, 2009. This primarily affects the scholarship program with its deadline in February. While regular mail will be forwarded, sending applications to the old office after the move could delay shipments past the deadline. Additionally, companies that use overnight delivery services should note that these shipments will only be accepted at the new address if sent after December 31st. This information will be included in all new applications. **FRED's new address as of January 1, 2010, will be: 2020 K Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006.**

### \$1,000 GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS (CONT.)

NICHOLAS CAMPONO, Granite State Telephone, Inc.

AUDREY FOX, Hamilton Telecommunications

DEVAN CALLAWAY, Hart Telephone Company

KELCIE MARTINEAU, Hiawatha Telephone Company

CHASE BURBAGE, Home Telephone Company, Inc. (SC)

LEAH HEIDEGGER, Hot Springs Telephone Company

RUSSELL SKURSKI, Inland Telephone Company

CAROLINA MCGINNIS, Ketchikan Public Utilities

BRITNEY GUIDRY, Lafourche Telephone Company, LLC

NICHOLAS PATRI, Manawa Telephone Company, Inc.

LOGAN STEPAN, Melrose Telephone Company

JACOB BECRAFT, Metamora Telephone Company

ROBBYN REUKAUF, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

CHRISTY REED, Millry Telephone Company

DANIEL BOLSEN, Moultrie Independent Telephone Company

KALYSSA POLLARD, Nortex Communications

LANCE DAY, Otelco, Mid-Missouri Division

SARA QUESENBURY, Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

JUSTIN QUATTLEBAUM, PBT Telecom, Inc.

BRANDY ROBERTS, Pioneer Communications

CORBITT SPIVEY, Plant Telecommunications

TRAVIS LOHSE, Ridgeville Telephone Company

APRIL SOUKUP, Ronan Telephone Company

MICHAEL ALBERT, Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc.

CHELSIE FAULKNER, Sierra Telephone

MATTHEW DOVE, Solarus

DESIREE VOGT, Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc.

MAUREEN KURTZ, Sycamore Telephone Company

SARA COLLINS, Totah Communications, Inc.

COLIN HENSON, United Telephone Company

TONI MULLINS, Wahkiakum West Telephone

JANE HUGHES, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

CALLIE BERGAN, Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association

JADE MILES HALVORSON, Winthrop Telephone Company

COLLIN BARTELS, WTC Communications



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See page 1 for details!



## INSIDE: Highlights from FRED's 20th Birthday Party Celebration

# FRED focus



### Spotlight on...

#### *Neil Turner, FRED's 2009 Top Scholar*

Ranked first in his class with a 3.8 GPA, Neil Turner was chosen as FRED's top scholar this year. His academic activities include membership in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta math Honor Society, and the High Potential Program. He was a President's List Honoree and a Community Honoree for academic achievement at a young age. He is active in the Boy Scouts, is a peer tutor, and enjoys bowling and math contests. Neil has started his first semester at the University of Minnesota-Morris and plans to study history and chemistry. Congratulations, Neil, and thank you, Park Region Mutual Telephone Company, for nominating such an outstanding student.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 11, 2009** Leadership Through Learning Program Applications Due

**December 31, 2009** FRED and OPASTCO Offices Move

**January 25, 2010** FRED's Clambake-on-the-beach Party San Diego, Calif.

**January 23-27, 2010** OPASTCO Winter Convention San Diego, Calif.

**February 8, 2010** Scholarship Applications Due

**Year-Round** Ethyl Grant Applications Accepted