

# Garden Valley Education Foundation

201 Ross Avenue · P.O. Box 259 · Erskine, Minnesota 56535

*Tim Brinkman, CEO/General Manager · (218) 687-2400*

November 30, 2016

[REDACTED]  
Fertile-Beltrami Public School District #599  
210 S Mill Street  
Fertile, MN 56540

[REDACTED]

Enclosed, please find a college scholarship application from the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). Established in 1994, FRS, in cooperation with NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout rural America by advancing an understanding of rural telecommunications issues. In keeping with its mission, furthering the education of rural youth is one of the foundation's primary focuses. Our company, Garden Valley Telephone Company, is a member of NTCA and is proud to support FRS in this worthy endeavor.

As your local telecommunications service provider, it is our pleasure to offer this national scholarship program to the students in your school within Garden Valley's service area. To be eligible, applicant's family must subscribe to at least one service from Garden Valley. Should a student from our service area be selected to receive one of the \$2,000 scholarships, we will contribute an additional \$500 to the scholarship, bringing the total one-time scholarship award to \$2,500. Students may also be eligible for four \$5,000 FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships (with a preference to students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine), two \$1,500 TMS Scholarships, and one \$7,000 Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship.

The enclosed application is easily reproduced—please feel free to copy it as needed. Or, if your students would prefer, it can also be downloaded from the FRS web site at <http://www.frs.org>. Although the form indicates that completed applications should be mailed directly to the FRS, we are asking that all completed applications be returned to Garden Valley by February 10, 2017. It will then be our responsibility to forward them to FRS. Applications postmarked after this date may not meet FRS's cutoff date. Please note that each application must bear my signature to be considered eligible.

We are very excited to bring this scholarship opportunity to our local school districts. Please help us make it a success by ensuring that all eligible students have an opportunity to apply.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Tim Brinkman  
CEO/General Manager  
TB/lh  
Enc.

*VERNON HAMNES, President · RONALD E. ENGELSTAD, Vice President · ALLEN L. PAULSON, Secretary  
JOE O. SANDBERG, Treasurer · JAMES O. FERDEN, Director · JERRY T. FREITAG, Director  
ARLENE J. NOVAK, Director · BYRON V. NESS, Director · EDGAR L. OLSON, Director*



**2017**

## College Scholarship Program



FOUNDATION FOR  
RURAL SERVICE

### **Make Sure Your Application Is Complete:**

- Completed Application Form (2 Copies)
- Transcript (7 Semesters, 2 Copies)
- 300-Word Essay (2 Copies)
- Educator's Statement (2 Copies)
- Letter of Recommendation (2 Copies)
- Sponsor Signature From NTCA Member
- Postmark to FRS no Later Than March 1, 2017

Must have all items on checklist to be considered.  
Please submit all materials together.



The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with 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, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth.

## Eligibility

Each applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Be a United States citizen.
- Be sponsored by a current NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association member.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.

## Application Instructions

- Type (preferred) or print all requested information. Complete the scholarship application in full. If any information is incomplete, the application will be rejected.
- Prepare a 300-word essay on one of the following topics:
  1. Describe your most significant accomplishment, and explain why you believe it to be your most outstanding.
  2. Describe the community in which you live, and indicate how it has influenced the person you are.
  3. What industry or opportunity would entice you to return to a rural community after completing your education, and why?
- The essay portion of the application is worth 35% of your total score. Make sure to use spell-check and grammar-check before submitting your essay.
- Have a high school teacher or guidance counselor complete the Educator's Statement. Please ask the author to provide two copies of his/her statement.
- Submit one letter of recommendation from a local community leader other than an educator (examples include telephone company personnel, elected official, local business leader, etc.). Please ask the author to enclose two copies of his/her letter.
- Include two copies of your transcripts, including the most recent semester. Transcript does not have to be an official copy.

- Have the manager, or designated employee of your sponsoring company endorse your application, and thus commit to the NTCA member match requirement. Unsigned applications will not be accepted for consideration. Please check with your local NTCA member to see what its requirements are for sponsorships.
- Do not include any photographs with your application.
- All signatures must be provided where indicated on the application.
- All materials, including recommendation letters, must be submitted together.

- In 2017, FRS will award scholarships per geographic region of the NTCA membership and one sponsored by an NTCA associate member. The awards will be distributed proportionate to the number of applications received per region. FRS will fund \$2,000 of each scholarship, with the sponsoring organization of each winning student providing a \$500 match.
- Four \$5,000 Staurulakis Family Scholarships will be awarded, with a preference to students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine.
- Two \$1,500 TMS scholarships will be awarded to students.
- One \$7,000 Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship will be awarded.

## Terms and Conditions

- All applications will be reviewed, and winners selected by a qualified selection committee of educators.
- Scholarships will be awarded on a one-time basis and will not be renewable.
- Awards will be paid upon proof of registration at an institute of higher education and will be issued by August 2017.
- Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or disability.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. Refer to the checklist on the application form to ensure that all components of the application have been fulfilled.
- Winners will forfeit their scholarship if mandatory paperwork is not received by FRS within 60 days of notification that they have won.
- Winners will be posted on the FRS website, [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org), by May 1, 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Please contact your local telecommunications provider to determine if it is an NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association member or former FRED Donor Circle member and if it is participating in the FRS College Scholarship Program. Sponsor company must be a current FRS donor of a minimum of \$500 within the past 12 months, or a former FRED Donor Circle member.



Instructions:

1. Please fill out both sides of this application and mail with all attachments and one photocopy of all materials to:

Selection Committee
Foundation for Rural Service
4121 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000
Arlington, VA 22203-1801

- 2. Please type (preferred) or print all information in black or blue ink. No pencil.
3. Include all requested attachments with application.
4. Postmark application to FRS no later than March 1, 2017.

Name: First Middle Last

Email Address

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Telephone Number Gender Male Female

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

High School High School Telephone Number

Grade Point Average (please provide your unweighted GPA cumulative through your 7th semester)

SAT Score (if applicable) ACT Score (if applicable)

College, University or Vocational/Technical School You Plan to Attend

College, University or Vocational/Technical School Admissions Office Telephone Number

Have You Been Accepted? Yes No

Anticipated Major or Area of Study

(Students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine will automatically be given preference for the FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships.)

Work Experience: List your work experience over the last four years, in chronological order, with your most recent job listed first. Attach additional page if necessary.

Table with 5 columns: Company, Position/Job Description, Employed From, Employed To, Average Hours Per Week

School Activities: List all school activities in which you have participated in the last four years (i.e., athletics, student government, clubs). Attach additional page if necessary.

Table with 4 columns: Activity, Years (1, 2, 3, 4), Average Hours Per Week, Comments



Community and Volunteer Activities: List all nonpaid community activities in which you have participated in the last four years (i.e., volunteer efforts, church work). Attach additional page if necessary.

Table with 4 columns: Activity (i.e., soup kitchen), Years (1, 2, 3, 4), Average Hours Per Week, Comments

Awards and Honors: List all awards and honors received in the last four years (including academic awards or honors). Attach additional page if necessary.

Table with 3 columns: Years, Award or Honor (i.e., Eagle Scout Badge, National Merit Scholar), Comments (Describe the Honor - Why Given)

Special Circumstances: Describe any additional information you feel the Selection Committee should consider in the selection process (i.e., family need or hardships overcome). Please provide this information in an attachment to this application, typed (preferred) or printed in blue or black ink. Do not answer this question if you feel that there are no special circumstances or important facts to relay.

Submit essay as attachment: Essay should be approximately 300 words, typed (preferred) or printed, 12-point font, double-spaced with one-inch margins. Please address one of the following statements:

- 1. Describe your most significant accomplishment, and explain why you believe it to be your most outstanding.
2. Describe the community in which you live, and indicate how it has influenced the person you are.
3. What industry or opportunity would entice you to return to a rural community after completing your education, and why?

Applicant Certification

I hereby certify that all of the information provided in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I hereby grant permission to FRS to contact my references and/or school if necessary, and to use my name and likeness in promotional materials in the event that I am selected to receive a scholarship award.

Signature of the Applicant

Date

NTCA Member Sponsor Certification

By signing this form your company is committing to provide the \$500 scholarship match required in the event that your applicant is selected as a winner in the FRS scholarship program.

NTCA Sponsoring Company Name

Signature of Sponsoring Manager or Designated Employee Date

Printed Name of Sponsoring Manager or Designated Employee

Telephone Number

City State NTCA Region

Make Sure Your Application Is Complete:

- Completed Application Form (2 Copies)
Transcript (7 Semesters, 2 Copies)
300-Word Essay (2 Copies)
Educator's Statement (2 Copies)
Letter of Recommendation (2 Copies)
Sponsor Signature From NTCA Member
Postmark to FRS no Later Than March 1, 2017

Must have all items on checklist to be considered.

Please submit all materials together.

1 Please contact your local telecommunications provider to determine if it is an NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association member or former FRED Donor Circle member and if it is participating in the FRS College Scholarship Program. Sponsor company must be a current FRS donor of a minimum of \$500 within the past 12 months, or a former FRED Donor Circle member.





**This Page Is To Be Completed by One of Your Teachers or Your High School Guidance Counselor**

To Be Submitted by Student With Completed Application.

**\*Teacher/Counselor:** Please fill out, make one copy, and provide both copies to the student.

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's/Counselor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe whatever you think is important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics. We are particularly interested in a candidate's intellectual promise, motivation, relative maturity, commitments to service, integrity, special talents and enthusiasm, hardships overcome (if applicable) and initiative. We welcome any information that will help distinguish this student from others. Please submit your comments below. Attach additional page if necessary.

### Personality & Character Evaluation

Compared with other high school seniors, how would you rate this student in the following areas?

	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent (Top 10%)	One of the Best That I Have Ever Encountered
Positive Attitude					
Enthusiasm & Support of the School					
Respect for Others					
Leadership Qualities					
Academic Achievement					
Sense of Responsibility					
Principles and Values					

Signature of Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your completed application, attachments  
and additional copies of all materials to:

**Selection Committee  
Foundation for Rural Service  
4121 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 1000  
Arlington, VA 22203**

*All applications must be postmarked to FRS  
no later than March 1, 2017.*

### Questions

If you have questions about locating an NTCA member sponsor or FRED Donor Circle member, please contact your local telecommunications provider to see if it is a member of NTCA and what its requirements are for sponsorship. FRS cannot distribute a list of NTCA members.

If you have questions about the application form, please contact FRS at [foundation@frs.org](mailto:foundation@frs.org).

[www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org)



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