



# Citizens NEWS

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## **CITIZENS AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO LOCAL TEEN**

Citizens, in conjunction with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's Foundation for Rural Service, sponsors a \$2,500 college scholarship. The award is given annually to a local graduating high school senior.

The winner of this year's scholarship is Richard Johnson from Carroll County High School. Richard plans to attend Radford University where he will major in Chemistry. He is an active community volunteer and is involved in various service activities for the Senior Citizens Center, the Carroll Christmas Fund, Angel Tree, Make a Wish Foundation, and Pennies for Patients. In addition, he visits local nursing homes; participates in Rooftop of Virginia's Santa Shop and various fundraising activities for United Way and UNICEF. Throughout high school, Richard participated in extracurricular activities including cross-country, track and field, English MACC, FCA, National Junior Honor Society, HOSA, Skills USA, Interact, class treasurer, and president of the National Honor Society.

"It's an honor and a privilege to sponsor this scholarship program. At Citizens, we embrace the opportunity to help build the communities of tomorrow. Our participation in the FRS scholarship is one way we assist in giving children the opportunity to attend college and receive the education that they deserve, not only to empower themselves, but ultimately, for the betterment of the whole community," commented Gerald Gallimore, General Manager.

The scholarship intent is to offer young people from rural America a better chance to receive a higher education. A primary goal of the foundation's college scholarship program is to encourage young, college graduates to return to rural areas after graduation. More than two-thirds of rural Americans with post-secondary degrees never return to their rural communities.

Over 1,200 applications were submitted this year, and twenty-five students were selected from throughout the country to receive an award from the Foundation of Rural Service. Citizens' contribution, combined with the foundation's contribution, made the \$2,500 scholarship award possible.

Citizens is a local, full-service communications and entertainment provider headquartered in Floyd, Virginia. Citizens provides telephone, long distance, dial-up and high-speed Internet services, and television programming to numerous rural areas throughout Southwest Virginia. "Citizens is proud to be a corporate partner in the communities we serve. The FRS Scholarship is just one way we give back to the community and we are proud to present Richard with this award," commented Robert Weeks, Marketing Manager.

The Foundation for Rural Service, through its partnership with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association and its members, promotes, educates, and advocates to the public rural telecommunications issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America.