



-- NEWS RELEASE --

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MTA SHOWCASE SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

The Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA) would like to announce the winners of our two \$1000.00 MTA Showcase Scholarships:

Darbi L. Brady
Brant C. Lumpkin

Darbi Brady is a senior attending Fairfield High School and ranks 1 out of 33 students. Her plans are to attend Carroll College in Helena, MT and pursue a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing. Darbi was also her Valedictorian of the Class of 2009. Her mother is employed with 3Rivers Communications.

Brant Lumpkin is also a senior attending Lincoln High School and ranks 1 out of 14 students. Brant will be attending Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana. He plans to major in Political Science with aspirations of entering the University of Montana School of Law. Brant's father is employed with Lincoln Telephone.

These scholarships were available to all dependents of full or part-time employees, current directors, or owners (or their spouses) of an MTA Member Company. MTA Member companies include: 3Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, CenturyTel, Frontier Communications, Hot Springs Telephone Company, Lincoln Telephone Company, Range Telephone Cooperative and Southern Montana Telephone Company. The scholarships can be used at any university, college or vocational technical center in the United States. The Scholarship Committee representing suppliers and member companies selects the scholarship recipient by taking in consideration grade point average, past accomplishments, future goals, and extra curricular activities.

About MTA: Since 1955, the Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA) has represented independent telecommunications service providers throughout Montana, offering local residential and business phone services, as well as a full spectrum of other services including broadband and dial-up internet; satellite TV, competitive local exchange and wireless services, long distance, etc. MTA members have over \$500 million of plant (telecommunications infrastructure assets) in service in Montana and invest over \$50 million each year in new facilities and services serving primarily rural Montana. They provide access to broadband internet service to over 80% - and often near 100% - of their customers, with highest quality communications service in the industry. MTA members employ 635 proud Montanans, earning over \$50 million in salary and benefits.