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NEWS RELEASE

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WISCONSIN'S LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES AWARD \$58,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO WISCONSIN STUDENTS

MADISON--The Wisconsin State Telecommunications Foundation (WSTF) has issued annual scholarship awards totaling \$58,000 to 43 students statewide. Since 1966, the Foundation has awarded a total of \$1,107,200 to 892 students. The Foundation is affiliated with the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA), a statewide trade organization representing 70 local telephone companies, Internet Service Providers and wireless carriers.

"In addition to providing high quality products and services to businesses, homes, and schools throughout Wisconsin, our scholarship program is just one small way our member companies are giving back to their communities," said WSTA Executive Director Bill Esbeck.

From 111 applicants, the Foundation awarded 34 scholarships of \$1,500 each to graduating high school students throughout the state; six scholarships of \$750 each to first-year students attending Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College's Electronics Telecommunications Program; and, two \$500 Technical College scholarships. In addition, one student also received the second annual \$1,500 Bruce Reuber WSTF Memorial Scholarship. Selections were based on financial need, academic achievements and extra-curricular activities.

NOTE: In addition to participating in the WSTF program, many WSTA member companies also offer their own local scholarships. The award totals in this release do not include the scholarships WSTA member companies award locally, whose winners are not selected by the WSTF.