

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foundation for Rural Service Announces 2020 Scholarship Recipients

Lenora, Kan, 06-17-20

Nex-Tech is pleased to announce Maggie Speno, Taylor Weidenhaft, and Patrick Heath as national award recipients of the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) scholarship program.

The FRS awarded \$87,000 to 34 students from rural communities served by members of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, including Nex-Tech. In its announcement, the FRS noted that the awardee’s applications were stellar and showcased not only their academic dedication, but an incredible amount of pride in their rural communities.

Maggie Speno received the \$7,000 Everett Kneece scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to one student who demonstrates strong interest in returning to a rural community. Maggie is the daughter of Timothy and Jessica Speno of Hays. She is a Thomas More Prep-Marian graduate and will attend Fort Hays State University majoring in Mathematics to become a high school Math teacher.

Taylor Weidenhaft received a \$5,000 JSI Staurulakis Family scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to four students with interest in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math. Taylor is the daughter of Brandon and Julie Weidenhaft of Hays. She is a Hays High School graduate and will attend Kansas State University majoring in Human Health Microbiology with a Pre-Med focus and minor in Psychology.

Patrick Heath received a \$2,000 FRS General scholarship with a match of \$500 from Nex-Tech. A total of 19 students received this award. Patrick is the son of Dan and Kim Heath of Great Bend. He is a Great Bend High School graduate and will attend Wichita State University majoring in Graphic Design.

The FRS Scholarship Program awards one-time scholarships to students from across rural America for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company. FRS had tremendous response to their scholarship program receiving over 650 applications.

“Nex-Tech is pleased to be a part of national organizations like FRS that offer advancement opportunities to our youth,” said Jimmy Todd, CEO/General Manger. “We congratulate Maggie, Taylor, and Patrick on their accomplishments thus far and wish them great success in the future.”

“It is a privilege for FRS to have a small role in supporting the continued education of these students through our scholarship program,” said FRS Executive Director Pam Becker. “Every applicant was impressive and demonstrated a deep knowledge of and dedication to their rural communities. We thank all our donors for making this scholarship program possible year after year.”

A full list of scholarship awardees and the NTCA member companies who are partnering with FRS to make the funding possible is available [online](#).

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Nex-Tech connects thousands of people and businesses through a robust broadband network and cutting-edge technology. Nex-Tech’s powerful fiber-to-the-premise technology delivers the highest quality Internet, with speeds up to 1 Gig, streaming TV, home security, and local and long-distance phone service. Nex-Tech also provides an array of enterprise solutions including cloud services, Hosted PBX, network security, managed IT, physical security and surveillance, advertising solutions, and network operations monitoring to business clients nationwide. Nex-Tech focuses on providing the best technology and support with the best people. With stores in more than 20 locations, a full-service Help Desk and 24-hour Network Operations Center, Nex-Tech customers are ensured unsurpassed technology and support. Headquartered in Lenora, Kansas, Nex-Tech has been delivering exceptional service for more than 65 years.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association and its members, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in rural America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. FRS is committed to educational achievement in rural communities, recognizing that tomorrow’s economic and civic development depends on the involvement and commitment of today’s youth. Visit us at www.frs.org.

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. In an era of transformative technological advancements, regulatory challenges and marketplace competition, NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Because of their efforts, rural America is fertile ground for innovation in economic development, e-commerce, health care, agriculture and education, and it contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy each year. Visit us at <https://www.ntca.org>.