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Polar Grants Scholarships and Awards to Local Youth

PARK RIVER – May 12, 2017 - Polar Communications is pleased to announce its 2017 scholarship and award recipients.

John G. Walters Scholarship

This year Polar awarded five \$1,000 scholarships in honor of former General Manager John G. Walters. The awards are given to outstanding high school seniors whose parents or guardians are current subscribers of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Applicants are judged on essay content, grammar, academic achievement and community involvement.

This year's winners are Taylor Dalbey – Fordville-Lankin High School, Noah Heuchert – St. Thomas Public School, Nathan Steffan – Lakota High School, Abbie Watkins – Grafton High School and Anne Welch – Park River Area School.

Polar Leadership Scholarship

The Leadership Scholarship is sponsored by Polar Communications, in cooperation with its retired employees. This scholarship is awarded to a student who is involved in their school, serves their community, achieves leadership roles in activities, functions or organizations, and strives to reach their highest potential. Consideration is also given to any work or internship experience outside of school. Applicants must be a senior in high school or freshman or sophomore in college, and their parents or guardians must be Polar customers.

The recipient of the 2017 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is being awarded to Mikayla Fingarson, a senior at Valley-Edinburg High School.

Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers an annual college scholarship program to students from rural America for their first year of college, university, or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company. In 2017, the foundation received over

1,500 applications from across rural America. They selected 47 awardees, totaling over \$100,000 in scholarship monies.

This year's recipient is Casey Solseng of Park River. Casey is receiving \$2,500, with \$2,000 coming from FRS and \$500 from the sponsoring company, which is Polar in this case. The FRS College Scholarship Program seeks to encourage students to return to their rural communities upon completing their education.

Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour

Each year, in collaboration with NTCA member companies, FRS brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, DC, for a four-day tour of some of the most historical sites in the nation. This year's tour is June 3-7, 2017. While there, students also learn about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics are greatly enhanced by site visits to the U.S. Capitol and the FCC to meet with industry leaders and members of Congress. The students also are given ample time to explore the nation's capital and its many attractions.

Polar is proud to sponsor Kaitlyn Blake of Park River and Taylor Stegman of Drayton for this year's trip.

Congratulations to all our scholarship and award recipients!