



Use your smartphone, tablet or computer and go like us on Facebook! Check out West River Cooperative Telephone Company's Facebook Page and leave us a review! We would love to hear from you – our member owners!

Keep up-to-date on all new and upcoming events going on throughout WRCTC's territory!



[facebook.com/WRCTC](https://facebook.com/WRCTC)

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West River Cooperative Telephone Company

# Calling on You

## \$750 Technician Scholarship Available

Are you currently enrolled or planning to attend a Telecommunications Program, Electrician Program or Powerline Program? Students currently enrolled or planning to attend a qualified program (listed below), **submit an application by March 8, 2024.**

### QUALIFIED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Telecommunications \* Information Systems Technology  
Heating & Cooling Technology \* Electrical Construction & Maintenance  
Utilities Technology - Powerline \* Utilities Technology - Heating & Cooling  
Powerline Construction & Maintenance \* Electrical Utilities & Substation Technology

For more information call Brooke at 605-244-5213 or visit [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop)

## \$750 Scholarships Available

**ATTENTION High School Seniors from Bison, Buffalo, Lemmon, Faith and Newell: Here is your chance to win a \$750 scholarship!** One senior from each school district will be awarded a scholarship from WRCTC and Grand Electric for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year! Applications are available online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop), through the Guidance Counselor at your school or from WRCTC in Bison. Please mail your completed application and any extra documents to: WRCTC Attn: Scholarship Program, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

**Applications must be postmarked by March 8, 2024.**

Applicants must be a dependent of a WRCTC or Grand Electric member.

## \$2,500 FRS Scholarship

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), along with WRCTC, is offering a \$2,500 scholarship! Preference will be given to individuals expressing an interest in returning to work in a rural area following college graduation. Applications are available online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop), through the Guidance Counselor at your school or from WRCTC in Bison.

**Completed applications require the signature of the Manager, Board President or designated employee prior to February 16, 2024, to ensure applications are postmarked to FRS before the deadline.**

# SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!



## Please Help us Find these People:

In the fall of 2023, many of you may remember receiving a capital credit check or credit towards a bill from WRCTC. However, there are some who have yet to receive their checks or allocation notices because we do not have current addresses for them. If you know the current address for any of the people listed below, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or email us at [westriver@sdplains.com](mailto:westriver@sdplains.com).

Blake, Ian	Fort Collins, CO	Mundell, Richard A & Sarah	Wright, WY
Brennan, Tamra	Greenhaven, AZ	Newell, Jan & Tim	Columbus, MT
Brown, Joseph Jr & Heather	Spearfish, SD	Nickels, Robert	Fruitdale, SD
Clanton, William Cody & Erin	Belle Fourche, SD	Olson, Mike & Lisa	Mitchell, SD
Coleman, Richard	Colome, SD	Olson, Theodore J & Anna L	Belle Fourche, SD
Cowan, Maura	Kingsland, TX	Overstreet, Rosalie	Belle Fourche, SD
Dell, Jake	Nisland, SD	Patrick, James H	Hettinger, ND
Durick, David	Lemmon, SD	Pearce, Jon	Belle Fourche, SD
Edwards, Lynnette	Billings, MT	Penfield, Bob	Bowman, SD
First Western Insurance	Newell, SD	Pharris, Peggy & Lynn Briggs	Newell, SD
Fuerst, James Fuerst Chiropractic	Spearfish, SD	Rear, Kelly & Amber	Sioux Falls, SD
Garcia Estate, Agnes N		Reif, Bill & Marjorie	Spearfish, SD
C/O Thelma Carter	Hulett, WY	Seaman, Char	Nisland, SD
Geigle, Merle		Shadehill Resort	
C/O Gary Phillips	Rapid City, SD	C/O Greg Jacobson	Hettinger, ND
Gunderson, Marcella		Shinabarger, Ronnie	Box Elder, SD
C/O Colleen Gunderson	Spearfish, SD	Sigler, Brianna	Newell, SD
Harris, Lisa	Prairie City, SD	Silverman, Ron & Elaine	Lemmon, SD
Harrison, Roxanne	Sioux Falls, SD	Simpson, Herb	Newell, SD
Hindman, Joseph	Belle Fourche, SD	Smith, Warren & Rose	Miles City, MT
Holdahl, Mildred	Lemmon, SD	Steele, Andrea	Vale, SD
Jacobson, Marvel	Piedmont, SD	Sumner, Jessica	Jerome, ID
Junek, David	Belle Fourche, SD	Tinton Enterprises LTD	Deadwood, SD
Klueckman, Brendan	Newell, SD	Tokar, Brenda	Lead, SD
Krisher, Colton & Kay	Plentywood, MT	Wear, Diane	Lodgepole, SD
Larson, Vernon C & Sharon	Lemmon, SD	Wright, Amanda	Buffalo, SD
Lindor, Roxsanne			
C/O Rita Pazour	Newell, SD		
Maier, June	Lemmon, SD		
McGaugh, Deb	Rapid City, SD		

# Affordable Connectivity Program

## What is the Affordable Connectivity Program?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC program that 508 3rd Ave W., Lemmon; helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet services.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service; and
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands

## Who is Eligible?

A household is eligible for the ACP if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Tribal;
- TANF, Food Distribution program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program 14105 Limpert Rd, Buffalo; or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award years; and
- Meets eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

## How to Enroll:

1. Collect documentation of eligibility and go to [GetInternet.gov](http://GetInternet.gov) to submit your application or print a mail-in application. Or call 1-877-384-2575 to have an application sent to you.
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

## LEARN MORE

Call: 1-877-384-2575 OR visit [fcc.gov/ACP](http://fcc.gov/ACP)

**If you haven't updated your router in the past 5 years,**

**IT'S TIME!!**  
**Managed Wi-Fi**

- Ask us what speed is right for you and experience a LAG FREE Wi-Fi connection!
- We take care of router updates – we will keep the malware and firmware out of your router!
- We PO Box 373, Newell; store your passwords!
- You can control your router from the FREE CommandIQ application on your cellphone or tablet.
- Add ProtectIQ - monitors incoming traffic on your router, which automatically blocks harmful content.
- Add ExperienceIQ - prioritize devices and block inappropriate content.

**Try Managed Wi-Fi today!**  
**\$10/month**





## New WRCTC Members

### Lemmon

Onuta, Teofil & Iatu Clara

605-374-7187

Schackow, Amanda

701-376-8884

## FREE CommandIQ App - Download Today!

In order for the CommandIQ app to work, you must have West River Cooperative Telephone Company's Managed Wi-Fi.

The CommandIQ app allows you to control your home Wi-Fi network from the palm of your hand!

- Change or reset your Wi-Fi Network name or password.
- See all devices currently using your Wi-Fi
- Pause the internet for any device, at any time.
- Create routines for scheduled downtime (i.e. bedtime)
- Create temporary or shareable guest network without sharing your main network name and password.
- Receive updates about planned network maintenance.

If you are interested in learning more out about Managed Wi-Fi or the CommandIQ App, call the office today at 605-244-5213 and speak with one of our Member Relations Representatives!

**JOIN US AT THE  
VALE AG SHOW!!  
January 10, 2024  
10AM – 2PM**

## Find Your Address

Five mailing addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new mailinbg addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill. Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count.

**Deadline is January 26, 2024.**

**\$20  
bill credit**

## Leadership Graduates

Emilee Besler, Accountant; Kerry Holmes, Central Office Technician; Riley Dalzell, Grand Electric Line Area Supervisor - Bison; Clay Brown, Grand Electric Journeyman Customer Sales and Service Technician; Sara Stadler, Perkins County Finance Officer; and Heidi Stevens, Perkins County Registrar of Deeds, from the Perkins County Courthouse, successfully graduated from the Complete Career Center Leadership Course after months of dedicated coursework and training. They began the monthly training program on May 10, 2023 and concluded on November 30, 2023.

Throughout the comprehensive course, students acquired insights into their leadership strengths, learning styles, and personality traits, enabling them to effectively manage situations and shape their decision-making processes based on their distinctive leadership styles. Congratulations to the graduates on their achievement!



Heidi Stevens, Sara Stadler, Emilee Besler, Clay Brown, Kerry Holmes, Riley Dalzell and Instructor Connie Schroeder from Complete Career Center & CCC Consulting.

## Career Showcase

West River Cooperative Telephone Cooperative Telephone Company and Grand Electric Cooperative participated in the Western Dakota Career Showcase held on November 21st at the Lemmon Armory. Connie Bootz, Assistant Director of Finance; Darin Prelle, Area Supervisor - Telecommunications; Scott Riley, Lineman; and Brooke Schecher, Member Relations Representative, were present to field questions regarding careers at both cooperatives. The event's primary goal was to inspire young individuals to consider returning to our small communities after completing their education and to enlighten them about the diverse career prospects available.

While there are many opportunities in small-town South Dakota it is our job to share and educate local students about the many options they 20488 Crook Meadows Pl., Whitewood; have if they choose to return to the area!



Darin Prelle, Connie Bootz and Scott Riley talk to students at the Western Dakota Career Showcase.