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Local Student Selected for National Telecommunications Scholarship

PARK RIVER – May 22, 2013 - Sadie Sondeland, a freshman at the University of North Dakota (UND) majoring in Nursing was selected to receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship by the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED). Nominated by Polar Communications, the given award is based on merit and demonstrated commitment to rural life. FRED will send the awarded scholarship to the University of North Dakota on behalf of Sadie Sondeland.

FRED selected 53 students from rural areas throughout the United States, and received more than 200 exceptional applications sponsored by rural independent telephone companies and cooperatives. FRED awarded a total \$75,000 to rural high school students from across America this year.

FRED, a national charitable foundation located in Washington, DC, was founded in 1989. The FRED Scholarship Program, now in its 21st year, is made possible through the generosity of more than 500 small, independent telephone companies operating in rural areas across the United States and Canada.

David L. Dunning, from Polar Communications wrote a letter of recommendation on behalf of Sadie so that her application could be accepted and reviewed. He wrote, “Sadie is an excellent student, named to the Dean’s List at UND earning a 4.0 GPA for the fall 2012 semester. She will make a wonderful nurse due to her caring and compassionate nature, concern for others, and her strong work ethic. Her desire to succeed makes her a good candidate for this award.”

FRED strives to promote education and development in rural areas. Small telephone companies, including Polar Communications, are a valuable asset to their rural communities. Polar and the FRED are helping to create educational opportunities for rural America’s greatest resource, their younger generations.

“Sadie Sondeland was selected among an outstanding group of young people to represent ‘the best of the best’,” stated FRED Foundation Director, Melissa Korzuch. “FRED aims to

assist students with high potential for success and a strong desire to return to a rural community upon graduation. We were overwhelmed by the remarkable credentials of the applicants. Each of this year's FRED Scholars is very intelligent and exceedingly active in their community. We hope they all will someday return to their hometowns to contribute to the community that clearly gave them an admirable, productive start in life."

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