

Continuing its efforts to promote education in the communities it serves, Great Plains Communications is offering up to \$35,000 in grants and scholarships.

The company will award up to \$15,000 in college scholarships for a wide range of interests and learning styles including technical institutes, four-year colleges and distance learning programs. The majority of the scholarships encourage students to stay committed to Great Plains Communications' communities and have an interest in the telecommunications or agricultural industry.

Through the company's grant initiative, titled "Great Plains Communications Commitment to the Schools Program," schools around Nebraska are eligible for a total of \$20,000 in grant funding. Individual schools are eligible for up to \$5,000 to help with technological upgrades, curricular improvements or professional development.

Four schools received grants in 2012 worth \$5,000 each.

Winning proposals included the renovation of a theatre to help revitalize the arts in Red Cloud, two new iPad labs with access to web-based learning tools for a variety of topics and a mobile whiteboard system. Past winners have included two sign-making businesses, "green" initiatives, award-winning language programs and an aquaponics lab.

Scholarship and grant applications are now being accepted for the 2012-13 school year.

Schools and students who are interested in participating in the grants and scholarships programs should visit www.gpcom.com/about/scholarships for more information.

The deadline for both programs is March 1. For questions about either program, please contact Molly Meeves at 402-456-6403.