



Ed Eichler presents the \$1,000 FRED Scholarship to Kelsey Dean along with her parents Dierck and Corky Dean.

Local Student Selected for National Telecommunications Scholarship

(Washington, D.C.) – The Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) awarded \$72,500 in scholarships to some of the most outstanding students rural America has to offer. A total of 61 students were selected to receive scholarships from the organization. Over 160 applicants applied to this program this year.

Kelsey Dean, daughter of Dierck and Corky Dean and a senior at Caro High School was selected to receive a \$1000 academic scholarship by the Fund for Rural Education and Development (FRED). Along with a strong academic records and extensive involvement in extra-curricular activities, Kelsey demonstrated a strong desire to return to a rural area in the United States after completing her studies. Kelsey will be using this scholarship to begin her education at Michigan State University to pursue a Degree in Veterinary Medicine.

Edwin H. Eichler, president of Pigeon Telephone Company wrote a letter of recommendation on behalf of Kelsey so that her application could be accepted and reviewed.

FRED is a national 501(c)(3) charitable foundation located in Washington, D.C., and was founded in 1989 by the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO). The mission of FRED and its supporters is to promote educational, social and economic development in rural America and Canada. The FRED Scholarship Program is made possible through the generosity of more than 1,000 small, independent telecommunications companies, including Pigeon Telephone Company, operating in rural areas across the United States and Canada and the companies that provide goods and services to these companies. Only OPASTCO member companies are eligible to nominate a student.

“Small telephone companies are a valuable asset to their rural communities. Our goal is to work with all OPASTCO members to create educational opportunities for rural America’s best resource—its young people,” FRED President Douglas Dougherty said.

Kelsey’s mother, Corky is employed by Thumb Cellular, an affiliated company of Pigeon Telephone Company.

For more information about the FRED Foundation and its programs, contact Pigeon Telephone Company in Pigeon, Michigan.