



**WESTERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE**  
*A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION » GIVING THE WEST A VOICE!*

Registration forms  
available now!  
[www.w-t-a.org](http://www.w-t-a.org)



# FORE!

AVOID THE HAZARDS



wta spring meeting    april 15-18, 2012    palm springs, ca



*Western Telecommunications Alliance unites a diverse industry in the western states for the purpose of advocating the telecom interests of rural Americans before federal and state regulators and the United States Congress. This is necessary to ensure affordable and quality telecommunications services for all rural Americans.*

*WTA has over 250 members in the 24 states west of the Mississippi River. Our members are generally small local exchange carriers serving sparsely populated rural areas. Most members serve fewer than 3000 access lines overall, with fewer than 500 access lines per exchange. Our member companies provide high quality voice, data, and video services in high cost areas.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Western Telecommunications Alliance is to aid members in providing reliable and affordable telecommunications and broadband services.

## **VALUES STATEMENT**

**Customers** - Service and Satisfaction  
**Communities** - Rural Economic Development  
**Members** - Involvement  
**Leaders** - Accountability

## **WHAT SETS US APART?**

WTA members serve the high cost areas west of the Mississippi River. Our members are all affected by public policy decisions that can either support or erode continued investment in rural telecom infrastructure. WTA encourages its members to tackle critical issues together by providing a forum for issue and problem identification, discussion and resolution. WTA promotes and facilitates the exchange of industry information; provides individual member assistance and guidance; promotes unity as the preferred industry solution; provides leadership and advocacy on key industry issues; coordinates with other industry associations; and fosters a positive environment for providers of industry products and services. WTA exists to serve its members and their input and involvement is important to the association.

## WTA ADVOCACY

WTA is dedicated to promoting the interests of rural telcos in high-cost, low density areas. WTA works with members and other trained professionals to proactively represent rural telecommunications networks in federal legislative and regulatory proceedings. The association is addressing a number of significant issues including universal service, the national broadband plan and intercarrier compensation.

## WTA CONVENTIONS

WTA provides unique opportunities for industry interaction at its bi-annual meetings. WTA events feature reputable industry speakers, seminars, workshops and exhibitions. These meetings are also important for suppliers, consultants and others who depend on a healthy rural telecom industry to conduct business and dialogue with industry colleagues.

## WTA CONNECTIONS

WTA communicates timely association and industry news to its membership through its newsletter, website and industry updates.

WTA fosters working relationships between its members and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service. The association ensures its members have the opportunity to conduct face-to-face meetings with RUS staff at its conventions.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW MEMBER BENEFIT! THIS COULD SAVE YOU MONEY!

WTA & UNITEL Insurance have partnered to provide ancillary benefits to WTA members. This member benefit offers members the opportunity to continue to provide outstanding benefits for employees with a potential to save substantial money! Coverage includes long-term disability, group life/AD & D and voluntary life insurance. Key features of the program are flexible plan design to meet specific needs, enhanced contract provisions, competitive pricing and a 3 year rate guarantee. WTA Members have already saved thousands of dollars. The savings from this member benefit alone could more than cover your membership dues to WTA!

## THE WESTERN WIRE

*The Western Wire* e-newsletter is emailed out on a monthly basis and when important information needs to be relayed to the membership quickly. *The Western Wire* provides the latest information on Capitol Hill, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Executive Branch Agencies as well as staff and industry updates, and convention information.

*Members sign up today! Call Lea at 406.443.6377.*



A photograph of three graduates in black gowns reaching their arms up towards the sky. Three black graduation caps with blue tassels are floating in the air above them against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# BOB ADKISSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**Robert F. Adkisson**  
Colorado Springs, CO

Bob Adkisson was President of GVNW Consulting, Inc. and was responsible for overseeing the operations and strategic direction of the company. Bob believed that the youth of today held the keys to our industry and our communities' success.

He was a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he obtained his Masters Degree in Finance and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Bob passed away in August of 2003. In his memory the Bob Adkisson Memorial Scholarship was established by GVNW, WTA, family and friends.

# WTA SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Get Involved, Make a Difference!



*Our company will support the  
Western Telecommunications  
Alliance Foundation, Inc.*



Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is our tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and return this form along with your donation to:  
WTA, PO Box 5655, Helena MT 59604. Please make checks payable to  
WTA Foundation. The WTA Scholarship Committee thanks you in advance  
for your support of this important event. If you have any questions please  
contact Lea Cramer at WTA, 406.443.6377 or [lea@w-t-a.org](mailto:lea@w-t-a.org).*



## HOW YOUR COMPANY CAN GET INVOLVED:

Consider what an educational scholarship can mean to a student. In some cases, it can be the deciding factor in a student's decision to attend a school of higher learning. The WTA Foundation is administered by a special committee that devotes a portion of its time every year to evaluate scholarship applications. The committee is constantly impressed with the qualities and skills that the high school senior applicants possess.

## YOU CAN ALSO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BY:

- » *Encourage all students to strive for top scholastic marks in order to qualify for scholarship awards in future years;*
- » *Make the award program widely known throughout your company;*
- » *Encourage your employees with high school seniors of the current year to apply for the Bob Adkisson Memorial Scholarship;*
- » *Help develop and support community service projects for students in your community; and*
- » *Support the Western Telecommunications Alliance Foundation, Inc. by making tax deductible contributions.*

*The Western Telecommunications Alliance Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization with a strong emphasis on education.*

# ***“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”***

~ William Butler Yeats

*The Western Telecommunications Alliance Foundation, Inc. is proud to sponsor the Bob Adkisson Memorial Scholarship Program. Amounts awarded range from \$500 to \$1500.*

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applicants must be immediate family members of an owner, board of director, manager or employee of a WTA Category I or Category II Member Company in good standing. (*“Family members” are sons, daughters and stepchildren including legal guardian or adopted status.*)
2. Applicants must be a high school senior of an accredited public, parochial, home school or private high school.
3. Applicants must be entering an accredited junior community college, technical school, four year college or university.

## **ABOUT THE SELECTION PROCESS**

Selections for the scholarship awards will be based on these factors:

- » Grades in high school
- » SAT/ACT scores
- » Leadership qualities and character
- » Community and other outside activities
- » Handwritten essay of goals and letters of recommendation

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applicants must fully complete a current Bob Adkisson Memorial Scholarship Application form. Please include a photograph.
2. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than February 25th and mailed to WTA Foundation, Inc., PO Box 5655, Helena, MT 59604.
3. Applicants must provide a copy of their high school scholastic record, stating cumulative grade point average.
4. Applicants must provide a copy of their SAT/ACT test results.
5. Applicants must provide a copy of their senior class academic schedule.
6. Applicants must provide a personal evaluation/recommendation from their principal or teacher of secondary school.
7. Applicants must provide a letter of recommendation from an employer, official, civic or religious leader of the community the applicant resides in.
8. Applicants must provide a handwritten single spaced one page essay stating their educational goals and the contribution they plan to make to society.
9. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

*All scholarship award recipients will be advised of selection and the method of payment by May 1st. WTA reserves the right to use the award recipients' name in promoting the Bob Adkisson Memorial Scholarship program.*



# ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP

*Western Telecommunications Alliance and UNITEL Insurance*

*This new WTA member benefit offers members the opportunity to continue to provide outstanding benefits to your employees with a potential to save substantial money. Coverages include short and long-term disability, group life/AD & D and voluntary life insurance.*



Mike Reed  
mreed@unicogroup | 877.579.6630 | [www.unicogroup.com](http://www.unicogroup.com)

WTA STAFF

**Kelly Worthington**

*Executive Vice President*

E: [kelly@w-t-a.org](mailto:kelly@w-t-a.org) T: 406.443.6377

**Lea Cramer**

*Director of Member Services*

E: [lea@w-t-a.org](mailto:lea@w-t-a.org) T: 406.443.6377

**Derrick B. Owens**

*Vice President of Government Affairs*

E: [derrick@w-t-a.org](mailto:derrick@w-t-a.org) T: 202.548.0202

**Eric Keber**

*Director of Government Affairs*

E: [eric@w-t-a.org](mailto:eric@w-t-a.org) T: 202.548.0202

**Gerry Duffy**

*Regulatory Counsel*

Blooston, Mordkofsky, Dickens, Duffy & Prendergast



W E S T E R N  
T E L E C O M M U N I C A T I O N S  
A L L I A N C E

**WTA HEADQUARTERS**

PO Box 5655, Helena, MT 59604 T: 406.443.6377 F: 406.443.0591 [www.w-t-a.org](http://www.w-t-a.org)

**DC OFFICE**

317 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002 T: 202.548.0202 F: 202.292.4057

**UPCOMING WTA EVENTS**

**2012 Spring Meeting**

April 15-18 • Palm Springs, California  
Hyatt Grand Champions Resort

**2012 Fall Meeting**

Sept 30-Oct 3 • Park City, Utah  
The Canyons

**2013 Spring Meeting**

April 7-10 • San Antonio, Texas  
Hyatt Regency Hill Country

**2013 Fall Meeting**

Sept 29-Oct 2 • San Francisco, California  
Hyatt Regency San Francisco

**2014 Spring Meeting**

April 6-9, 2014 • Las Vegas, Nevada  
JW Marriott

**2014 Fall Meeting**

Sept 14-17, 2014 • Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
Coeur d'Alene Resort