



South Dakota
Telecommunications
Association

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2026 SDTA Memorial Scholarship Application

Two \$2,000 scholarships
One \$2,500 scholarship
\$6,500 TOTAL!!

Deadline: Must be received by April 17, 2026

Scholarship Criteria:

- A High School Diploma, GED equivalent or will have it at graduation in 2026;
- Accepted into or attending a multi-year program degree at any accredited technical college or other accredited post-secondary higher education institution in South Dakota for the fall 2026 semester;
- Are majoring in a degree/program or field of study that is useful in the telecommunications or broadband industry or which significantly relies on the use of broadband services and related technologies (examples of majors eligible for this scholarship can be found at https://sdtaonline.com/sdta_scholarships.php) and
- A customer/member or have a parent or legal guardian that is a customer/member of a SDTA member company.
- Previous SDTA Memorial Scholarship recipients are not eligible to apply.

3 Ways to Apply:

- 1- Complete the [ONLINE APPLICATION](#)
- 2- Submit typed application via E-mail: karasemmler@sdtaonline.com or
- 3- Submit typed application via Mail to: South Dakota Telecommunications Association, PO Box 57, Pierre, SD 57501.

Instructions - Complete and submit the application along with:

- A minimum of two letters of recommendation. At least one from a teacher, instructor, or advisor. The other may be from someone who knows you well (but not a family member).
- An unofficial transcript.
- Submit letters and transcript via email to karasemmler@sdtaonline.com or mail to South Dakota Telecommunications Association, PO Box 57, Pierre, SD 57501.

Selection of awards will be announced on or before May 9, 2026. If a scholarship winner does not wish to accept the award, SDTA should be notified promptly, but by no later than August 1, 2026. The scholarship will be distributed for the spring semester (2027).

Student Information

Student Name _____

Student Email Address _____ Phone _____

Present Address _____

Permanent Address (if different from present address above) _____

Serving Telephone Cooperative/ Company _____

Technical College or other College/University of enrollment _____

If you were claimed as a dependent by your parent(s)/legal guardian for federal income tax purposes, provide the following:

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian Name _____

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian Phone & Email Address _____

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian Address _____

Essay Questions

Type the answer to each of the questions below in your own words. No length requirement or cap.

1. What is your current or planned area of study and explain how telecommunications or broadband technologies and services are important to your intended profession and will help you as an individual in achieving your career goals?
2. In what community service, leadership development, or other personal growth activities do you participate?
3. What personal habits, traits or characteristics will help you excel in your intended career or profession?
4. Describe five criteria that would need to be met for you to choose to stay in South Dakota after graduation from college.
5. Describe your vision of how high-speed broadband services assist those who reside and work in rural areas with the following:
 - a. Economic and Community Development
 - b. Education
 - c. Healthcare
 - d. Overall Quality of Life
6. How did you learn about this scholarship?

The statements in this application are correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed _____ Date _____

(Applicant)

SOUTH DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION MEMBER COMPANIES

Alliance Communications, Garretson

Beresford Municipal Telephone

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Telephone, Eagle Butte

Faith Municipal Telephone

Fort Randall Telephone, Wagner

Golden West Telecommunications, Wall

Interstate Telecommunications, Clear Lake

James Valley Telecommunications, Groton

Kennebec Telephone Company

Midstate Communications, Kimball

RC Technologies, New Effington

Santel Communications, Woonsocket

Swiftel Communications, Brookings

TrioTel Communications, Salem

Valley Telecommunications, Herreid

Venture Communications, Highmore

West River Cooperative, Bison

West River Telecom, Hazen, ND