

October is National Co-op Month

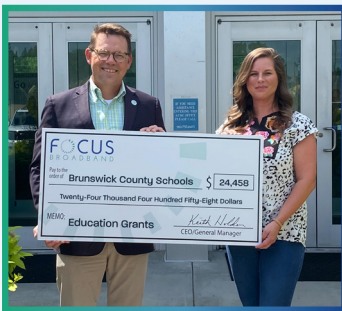
Every October, cooperatives across America, including FOCUS Broadband, celebrate the role, accomplishments, and contributions of our nation's cooperatives. Being a cooperative means we uphold values of honesty, openness, and social responsibility. Unlike larger national companies, our roots are local, and we're focused on continuing to grow and meet our customers' needs.

FOCUS broadband was formed in 1955 to serve the residents and businesses of Brunswick County. Since then, we have grown to become the largest member-owned communications cooperative in North Carolina! Each time you pay for your FOCUS Broadband services, you're making an investment in a company that you and your neighbors own.

We also give back to our members in the form of capital credits, grants to non-profits and educators, and through scholarships to high school students. As we grow and change to meet your needs, we will continue to stand by the cooperative principles on which we were founded. Our success is your success, and we thank you for your continued support.

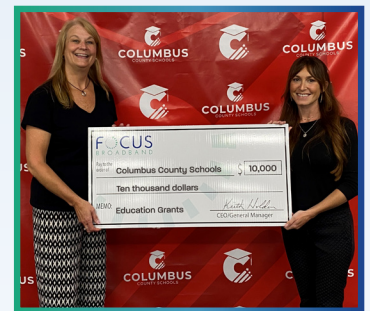


FOCUS Broadband Awards \$40,000 in Education Grants



Dr. Dale Cole,
Brunswick County Superintendent

Twenty-two local educators, representing seventeen schools in Brunswick, Columbus, Robeson, and Pender counties are receiving Smart Connections Grants from FOCUS Broadband to help with programs that will expand educational opportunities for students within our service area. The \$40,000 in awarded grant funds are part of the cooperatives grant program, which has awarded over \$1 million dollars in community and education grants to



Dr. Deanne Meadows,
Columbus County Superintendent

over 500 programs since its inception in 2006.

“FOCUS Broadband understands the impact educators have on their students and communities. With these grants, educators can aid students in their studies, and purchase needed classroom supplies” said FOCUS Broadband CEO, Keith Holden.

Each year educators may apply for up to \$2,500 in grant funding for eligible programs. FOCUS Broadband will begin accepting applications for the community and education grants again in December. For a complete list of programs and recipients receiving funds through this year's awards, visit FOCUS Broadband's grant programs webpage at focusbroadband.com/educationgrants.

Scholarship Applications Now Open

Now through December 8th, FOCUS Broadband will accept scholarship applications from high school seniors in our service areas! Applicants and/or their legal guardians must be customers of FOCUS Broadband for Internet, Telephone, Cable TV or Security in order to qualify. Ten \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded, and recipients will be selected on the basis of academics, school-sponsored activities, community involvement and interview skills.

For more information about our scholarship program, contact the guidance counselor at your local high school or visit focusbroadband.com/scholarships.

Start Over and Look Back with MergeTV

FOCUS Broadband has begun a project to convert customers with traditional cable service over to our MergeTV platform. MergeTV comes with a variety of enhanced features like start over and look back. Never miss those critical moments on game day, relive those epic plays and even start a show over from the beginning. Plus, get 100 hours of cloud DVR storage.

Notification on when it is your time to convert will be sent by letter and/or email. Conversions will be done at no cost, but those who fail to convert to MergeTV by their conversion date risk losing cable TV service. A subscription to FOCUS Broadband high-speed internet is required. For more information visit focusbroadband.com/mergeTV.

Roger Cox Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Steagall

Brunswick Community College (BCC) recently awarded the Roger A. Cox Memorial Scholarship to Zach Steagall of Shallotte. Zach is enrolled at BCC where he is working on his Associates Degree in Art. He also is a pitcher for the BCC baseball team. Upon graduation, Zach plans to continue his education in Business Administration.



Zach Steagall

The Roger A. Cox Memorial Scholarship was created in 2016 to honor Roger Cox, former FOCUS Broadband General Manager, and his passion for serving the community. Roger taught at the college, served on the Foundation Board, and was always a supporter of the institution. Following his passing in 2016, the Brunswick County community, FOCUS Broadband employees, Board Members and sister cooperatives began raising funds for an endowment.

Fiber Optic Internet Available in Brierwood

Customers in the Brierwood Community of Shallotte now have access to fiber optic delivered internet! This is part of FOCUS Broadband's \$100 million, multi-year project to bring fiber optics to every customer.

"Making fiber optics available throughout our entire service area is a top priority here at FOCUS Broadband. Over the last couple of years, we've been working on upgrades that have allowed us to make gigabit speeds available to over 99% of our customers. Upgrading areas like Brierwood to fiber optics allows us to provide customers with an even more reliable connection and the bandwidth to meet their needs both today and tomorrow," said Keith Holden, FOCUS Broadband CEO.

Fiber optic service was made available earlier this year in areas of Seaside, Ocean Isle Beach, and Calabash. Additional communities are slated for construction in the coming months. Customers will be notified when fiber optic service becomes available for their address. Keep up with the progress of our Brunswick County fiber upgrade project by following us on Facebook at [@focusbroadband](https://www.facebook.com/focusbroadband).

