

FOCUS Broadband Awards \$40,000 to Local Non-Profits

FOCUS Broadband is committed to improving our local community. This spring, the cooperative awarded \$40,000 in grants to organizations that make a positive difference in the communities we serve.

"We are honored to award these grants to local non-profits that we know will positively impact many of our customers, their families and the community as a whole," commented Al Parker, FOCUS Broadband Director and Board Liaison for the grants committee.

FOCUS Broadband began awarding community and education grants in 2006. Since then, the company has awarded \$885,000 in community and education grants to 525 programs. FOCUS Broadband will award education grants later this fall. Grants are available to organizations and educators in FOCUS Broadband's service territory. For more information on our grant program, visit focusbroadband.com/giving-back.

FOCUS BROADBAND GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brunswick County Literacy Council
Brunswick County Wellness Center
Brunswick Little Theatre
Brunswick Search and Rescue
Calabash Fire Department Auxiliary
Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers of America
John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68
Lower Cape Fear LifeCare
Marine Corps League Detachment 1036

Oak Island Water Rescue
Paws-Ability
Power Walking Ministries
Smart Start of Brunswick County
South Brunswick Interchurch Council
Takin' It To The Streets
The Carousel Center
The Cedar Grove Improvement Center
WAVES 4 K.I.D.S.

King Named Board President Milliken to Serve on Board of Directors

Whitney King has been named to serve as President of FOCUS Broadband's Board of Directors following the retirement announcement of Jamie Milliken, who served on the Board for more than 20 years. King is a Brunswick County native, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a local farmer and businessman. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2015 as the representative for District 1. Whitney and his wife, Suzanne, live in Ash.

Justin Milliken has been selected to serve on FOCUS Broadband's Board of Directors as the new representative for District 4, which covers Ocean Isle and Sunset Beach. Milliken graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and is currently the CEO and President of Shallotte Electric & Plumbing Supply. He resides in Shallotte with his wife, Carmen, and their daughters Shelby and Asbury.



Justin Milliken



Whitney King

Town of Orrum Recognized as a Smart Rural Community

The Town of Orrum is the newest recipient of the Smart Rural Community designation presented by FOCUS Broadband. The Smart Rural Community designation, given by the NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, highlights member projects which make rural communities vibrant places to live and do business through the implementation of innovative broadband-enabled solutions.

Orrum received this recognition because of the work FOCUS Broadband has done to install a new, state-of-the-art fiber optic network that will serve residents and businesses in Orrum. The project was made possible through a \$2.5 million-dollar NC GREAT Grant along with an additional \$1 million-dollar investment from FOCUS Broadband which is allowing the company to serve more than 2,000 addresses in the Robeson County towns of Orrum and Proctorville and the Columbus County town of Boardman. Orrum is the first town in Robeson County to receive this recognition.

For more information on what FOCUS Broadband is doing to increase access to broadband in Robeson County, visit fasterrobeson.com.



Victoria Bellamy presents Smart Rural Community Sign to Town of Orrum

Watch Local High School Graduations on FOCUS Broadband TV

FOCUS Broadband TV will air graduations for each of the Brunswick County High Schools this month! Stream the ceremonies live from Facebook on graduation day or tune to FOCUS Broadband TV (Channel 3 or 910) starting June 6th at 7 p.m. Check your on-screen guide for a schedule of air dates and times, or visit focusbroadbandtv.com.



New Directories on the Way

Your new FOCUS Broadband telephone directory will arrive in July. We hope that you'll be pleased with the changes and enhancements of the new directory. It is our goal to make it as helpful and informative as possible. Please remember to recycle your old telephone directories by dropping them off at any FOCUS Broadband retail location from now through August 31st.

Local Student Awarded Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship

West Brunswick High School senior, Amanda Jacobs, has been awarded the Roger Cox Memorial Scholarship through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). Jacobs is the daughter of Sammy and Nicole Jacobs of Shallotte and plans to attend Appalachian State University. Amanda will major in elementary education with hopes to return after college and teach in the rural community she grew up in.

"We are honored that Amanda was selected as a recipient for the Roger Cox Scholarship," said Keith Holden, FOCUS Broadband CEO. "It is wonderful that this local student was chosen to honor Roger's legacy



Amanda Jacobs

through this scholarship program, we wish Amanda much success as she prepares for this next chapter of life."

In 2017, FRS created the Roger Alan Cox Scholarship. Roger Cox served Brunswick County and the rural telecommunications industry, spending the last 27 years of his life at FOCUS Broadband (formerly ATMC) primarily in leadership roles as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager. This scholarship honors Roger's passion and drive to help ensure that people living in rural North Carolina have access to the same technology and education as every other American.