

## 2024 Scholarship Recipients

FOCUS Broadband continued our tradition of supporting local high school seniors in their academic pursuits by awarding \$2,000 scholarships to ten outstanding students. Over 67 applications were received from students living across the FOCUS Broadband service area. Awards are granted based on academics, involvement in school and community activities, and interview skills.

### 2024 FOCUS Broadband Scholarship Recipients:

**Lyla Bullard, West Columbus High**  
**Gracelyn Byrd, South Columbus High**  
**Reece Anna Cribb, South Columbus High**  
**Daijah Davis, Whiteville High**  
**Delanie Jackson, South Brunswick High**

**Josiah Johnson, West Brunswick High**  
**La'Tonia Mason, James Kenan High**  
**Anderson Metty, North Brunswick High**  
**Ella Moffitt, South Brunswick High**  
**Lauren Sturdivant, West Brunswick High**



L-R: Jackson, Moffitt, Sturdivant, Metty, Johnson, & Keith Holden, CEO.



L-R: Byrd, Davis, Harrelson, Bullard, & Cribb.

New this year, FOCUS Broadband's Board of Directors awarded an additional \$1,000 Rylee Brinson Scholarship to South Columbus High School's (SCHS) Bryce Harrelson who will be attending Campbell University in the fall to study engineering. This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Rylee Brinson, a former SCHS student, and his dedication to academic excellence.

"We are so proud of this program and to be able to provide scholarships for students. Each of the recipients exemplifies a strong commitment to their education and communities," said Keith Holden, FOCUS Broadband CEO. Since the program's inception, FOCUS Broadband has awarded \$153,000 to 97 students. The application window for FOCUS Broadband's scholarship program will reopen again in October.

## Saltire Village Upgraded to Fiber Optics

FOCUS Broadband continues work to make fiber optic service available to cooperative members. Recently, we have extended fiber availability to more residents living in Shallotte, Sea Trail, Calabash, Brunswick Plantation, as well as the Saltire Village Community. Work is currently underway to make fiber optics available to Carolina Shores.

Our commitment to upgrading our existing service areas has effectively made fiber internet available to nearly 5,000 people living in cooperative neighborhoods. Additionally, since this multi-year project began, FOCUS Broadband has made gigabit internet speeds available for all customers.

# Voted Best in Customer Service

Our employees are the best and we're proud to have been recognized for providing the Best in Customer Service by the Brunswick Beacon's Reader's Choice Awards for the 16th consecutive year!

"Commitment to our customers is the driving force behind everything we do," comments Keith Holden, FOCUS broadband CEO. "Winning Best in Customer Service once again is not just a recognition of our past achievements but also a promise to our customers that we will continue to deliver excellence."

We extend a heartfelt thanks to our loyal customers for their continued trust and support. This honor would not be possible without you.



## Enhancing Communities One Park at a Time



Whether it's a family picnic, a morning jog, or simply enjoying nature during a lunch hour, you can connect to FOCUS Broadband Wi-Fi in many of your local parks this spring and summer.

Access to the internet has become more than just a convenience, it's a necessity. By working with local towns and municipalities to make Wi-Fi available in public places, we are empowering individuals to stay connected and enrich the community's experience. This initiative aligns with FOCUS Broadband's broader mission of fostering community engagement and promoting digital inclusion. Check out the Wi-Fi provided by FOCUS Broadband at parks in Oak Island, Calabash, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, and Belville.



## Before you gopher that shovel, dial 811.

April is National Safe Digging Month!



## Employees Donate to Book Drive

Our employee book drive to celebrate National Read Across America Day brought in around 400 books during the week of the event. The books were donated to Smart Start of Brunswick County for their monthly Playgroups and the 13 Free Little Libraries located across Brunswick County.

Smart Start of Brunswick County aims to foster a love of learning and help young readers build their own home library. "It brings us great joy to know we are contributing to youth within our community," states Keith Holden, CEO of FOCUS Broadband. "Our employees are proud to support initiatives that promote literacy and education in Brunswick County."



Krista Campana, Smart Start of Brunswick County's Executive Director and the FOCUS Broadband team.