

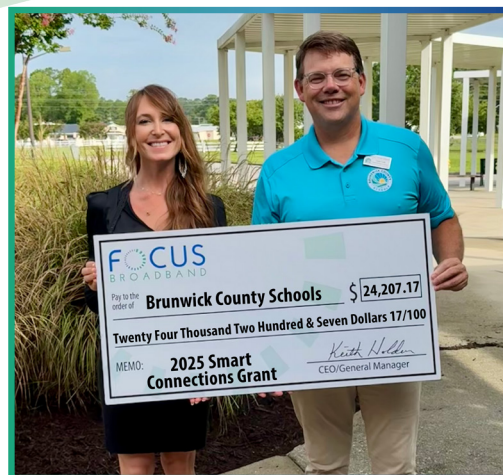
\$40,000 Awarded in Smart Connections Grants

FOCUS Broadband has awarded education grants to 21 educators from Brunswick, Columbus, Robeson, Perquimans, and Pender counties through our 2025 Smart Connections Grant Program. These grants will fund a variety of innovative classroom projects including STEM programs, literacy initiatives, and life skills training.

Since the program's launch in 2006, FOCUS Broadband has awarded \$1.16 million in funding to support impactful nonprofit and educational initiatives that enrich the communities we serve.

"We're honored to support the teachers who are inspiring the next generation of thinkers, creators, and leaders," said Janice Gore, FOCUS Broadband Board Liaison for the 2025 Grant Committee.

If you're an educator or part of a nonprofit, the application window for the 2026 Community Connections and Smart Connections Grants will open in December. To learn more about the program, or to view the full list of 2025 Smart Connections grant recipients, visit our website at focusbroadband.com/educationgrants.



Tips to Stay Connected

This Hurricane Season!

Hurricanes can be unpredictable, but being prepared makes all the difference. Watch our hurricane tips video to learn how to stay safe, connected, and informed when a storm comes our way. Scan the QR code above to watch now!



You're Invited

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

640 Whiteville Rd.
Shallotte, NC 28470

10.11.25

11am - 2pm

See you there!



Join us for an event filled with food, fun activities, and prizes! As our way of saying thank you for being loyal customers of FOCUS Broadband, we're hosting a Customer Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 11th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our Shallotte headquarters, located at 640 Whiteville Road. It's our chance to connect, celebrate, and show how much we value your support!

Celebrating 70 Years of Connectivity: *From Copper to Fiber: A Hands-On Role*

As FOCUS Broadband marks its 70th anniversary, we're reflecting on the people and moments that have shaped our journey. Few stories capture that journey better than David Babson's.

David joined the company in 1979 as part of the construction department during a time when landline telephone service was the cooperative's only offering. Over the next 45 years, David contributed to some of the most transformative changes in our history.

From delivering service over copper lines to ushering in fiber optic technology, David witnessed firsthand how innovation and determination propelled the company forward to meet the needs of our customers.

"It meant a lot to Brunswick County that we were here and we were home-grown. Nobody had to come from somewhere to make this happen," David remarked. "We made it happen." He credits forward-thinking leadership and the company's steadfast commitment to delivering excellent customer service as key to the cooperative's success.

David's story is a reminder of our humble beginnings, our adaptation to change, and our enduring commitment to the communities we serve.



SCAN ME

Watch the
interview here!

Roger A. Cox Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Brunswick Community College (BCC) recently awarded Jake Jeffrey the Roger A. Cox Memorial Scholarship, established in 2016 to honor former FOCUS Broadband General Manager Roger Cox and his dedication to the community. Roger also served as President of the BCC Foundation.

Following Roger's passing in July 2016, employees at ATMC began raising funds for the Roger A. Cox Endowment. In just one month, the \$25,000 goal was reached. Contributions came from ATMC and its Board of Directors, staff and retirees, corporate partners, sister cooperatives, and friends of Roger.

Jake is pursuing an Associate in Science degree at BCC and plans to continue his education at a university to earn a degree in Business. We're proud to support his journey and celebrate his achievements!

Annual Meeting Reminder

FOCUS Broadband's 68th Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, October 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at our headquarters located at 640 Whiteville Rd. in Shallotte.

Registration and voting will be available online and by mail starting September 11 and ending on October 1. Members who register will receive a \$20 bill credit and be entered into a drawing for \$3,000 in cash prizes. You do not have to be present to win.

A recording of the meeting and a list of the prize winners will be posted on our website on October 4 at focusbroadband.com/annualmeeting.