



For Immediate Release

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Great Plains Communications names Hayes Center High School teacher, Ann Fornoff, as the 2015 Outstanding Teacher of the Year

April 28, 2015 (Blair, NE.) - Ann Fornoff has been named the 2015 Outstanding Teacher of the Year by Great Plains Communications.

Throughout her career, Fornoff has shown tireless dedication as an English teacher, advisor, mentor and advocate for the students of Hayes Center High School. She believes in going above and beyond for her students, offering extra help and advice to help them succeed.

In addition to teaching, Fornoff also gives back to her community as a volunteer for the Northwest 4-H club and independent Hayes County 4-Her's. She has also served in numerous roles as a 4-H judge at several Southwest Nebraska fairs in the speech, modeling, photography, horticulture and floriculture categories. She supports her students as a booster club supporter to raise funds for drug-free, post prom parties, local athletic camps and activities, and soup suppers for various benefits.

Some locals may also recognize Ann as the "voice of the Cardinals," for the past 30 years. She has announced starting lineups for all home volleyball games and girls' and boys' basketball as well as announcing at the Hayes Center Track Invitational for 30 years. Before retiring from teaching Journalism, Ann had been the advisor of 15 class D state Journalism championship teams, two runner-up teams, and was Nebraska Schools Activities Association Advisor of the Year in 2008.

"My greatest accomplishments in education are the hundreds of 'thank yous' I have received from so many students, parents, and fellow colleagues, and the smiles and gestures of that light bulb turning on in the eyes and faces of my students," said Fornoff. "As a teacher, I feel I have played a vital role in the education of students and in their lives."

Great Plains Communications awards the honor of Outstanding Teacher of the Year to one individual annually from the areas the company services in rural Nebraska. The winner is chosen based on accomplishments in several criteria categories including commitment to education, community service activities, and additional letters of recognition.

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Ms. Fornoff graduated with her BA in English Language Arts and Business Education from Kearney State College in 1984. She has also completed post graduate hours at both Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

About Great Plains Communications

Great Plains Communications is the largest privately owned telecommunications company in Nebraska and is headquartered in Blair, Nebraska. At the core of their service offering is a 5,000 mile regional fiber network encompassing the state of Nebraska and extending into Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

They currently provide 90+ Nebraska communities with High-Speed Internet, High-Definition Cable Television, and Local and Long Distance Telephone services. Great Plains Communications business solutions range from traditional voice and data products to installation and support of large business networks with scalable Ethernet solutions. The company also prides itself on their progressive approach to accommodating the unique needs of regional and national telecommunications carriers, LECs, ISPs, and wireless carriers.

Great Plains Communications recently celebrated their 105-year anniversary, and are in their fourth generation of family ownership.

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