



For Immediate Release

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Great Plains Communications Awards Grant to Develop an Aquaponics Lab for Perkins County Elementary School

April 23, 2019 (Blair, Neb.) - Great Plains Communications presented the Perkins County Elementary School with a \$2,500 grant on April 17 to support the development of an Aquaponics Lab. Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics (growing plants without soil) that grows fish and plants together in one combined system.



“Aquaponics is a great hands-on approach to help teach the benefits of the interaction between the earth’s systems and it allows the students to be involved in the scientific processes on a daily basis,” said Amanda Wood, Science Teacher at Perkins County Elementary. Ms. Wood believes that children need to be exposed to the amazing areas of science at an early age to ignite their passion to seek and understand more of the world around them.

Teachers will work together to construct the Aquaponics system and to incorporate concepts from all subject areas to allow for both current and future students to benefit from the project.

“We found this concept to be educational and very interesting for young students as they watch the concept come to life,” said Laura Kocher, Marketing and Public Relations Director for Great Plains Communications. “Allowing our young students to learn through a hands-on approach like Aquaponics can bring a whole new level of interest to the Science curriculum. We are happy to partner with Perkins County Elementary to make this happen.”

This award is part of the Great Plains Communications “Commitment to Our Schools” program, which provides nearly \$35,000 annually to schools and students in the form of grants and scholarships.

About Great Plains Communications

Great Plains Communications is the largest privately-owned telecommunications provider in Nebraska. The company provides over 90 communities across the state with high-speed Internet, cable television, and voice services. Business solutions range from traditional and cloud-based voice and data products to installation and support of large business networks with scalable Internet and Ethernet solutions.

At the core of its service offering is an extensive 9,500-mile regional fiber network including over 400 fiber miles in the Omaha Metro area. The network extends beyond Nebraska into Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wyoming offering community access rings, last-mile, and middle-mile solutions, all fully supported by their 24x7x365 Network Operations Center. The company is financially strong with over a century of experience providing reliable and innovative solutions. Great Plains Communications is privately owned by [Grain Management, LLC](#): a leading private equity firm focused on investments in the Communications sector. For more information visit www.gpcom.com.

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