



## For Immediate Release

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### **President of the Nebraska Telecommunications Association Joins Great Plains Communications as a Fiber Splicer for a Day to Raise Awareness**

January 7, 2015 (Blair, Ne.) - Great Plains Communications was pleased to welcome the President of the Nebraska Telecommunications Association (NTA), Eric Carstenson to join their team as a "Fiber Splicer for a Day".

Mr. Carstenson worked with the Great Plains Communications team splicing fiber on their Fremont Nebraska project. Splicing is an intricate process that involves physically pulling fiber, aligning it, and fusing the strands together. Carstenson described it this way: "Two strands of glass fiber, each thinner than a human hair have to be physically pulled. The splicer must then align them and fuse the fibers together. The outside part of the job is manual labor. But inside the trailer the work needs to be perfect and precise. The big takeaway for me was the impressiveness of each technician's skill level and commitment to quality."

Splicing fiber is a vital component to expanding the fiber footprint in Nebraska. Increased fiber availability not only provides communities with enhanced voice, television and high-speed Internet services, it greatly increases economic development opportunities for rural areas, and helps to create community longevity. Great Plains Communications has been a leader in the advancement of Rural Nebraska for over 100 years, installing over 5,000 fiber miles throughout the state.

Mr. Carstenson donated his time as an employee for a day in an effort to raise awareness about the high-tech operations telecommunications companies perform to provide telephone, Internet and entertainment services in Nebraska communities.

#### **About Great Plains Communications**

Great Plains Communications is the largest independent telecommunications company in Nebraska. With more than 100 years of experience, the company currently serves 90 communities with 200 employees throughout Nebraska. They offer residential services such as digital phone including local and long distance calling, as well as high-definition cable television. Broadband Internet is available in all Great Plains Communications' communities through DSL and cable modem facilities or via Satellite Internet Service. The company also provides business services ranging from traditional voice and data products to installation and support of large business networks.

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