



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Great Plains Communications names Spalding/Riverside Public Teacher, Julie Rankin, as the 2019 Outstanding Teacher of the Year**

April 25, 2019 (Blair, Ne.) – Julie Rankin has been named the 2019 Outstanding Teacher of the Year by Great Plains Communications. Throughout her career which began in 1993, Rankin has shown tireless dedication as a teacher of multiple academic subjects for 5th and 6th-grade students for Spalding Public and Riverside Public Schools. Currently, Ms. Rankin is developing a school-wide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) implementation plan. As part of this plan, she encourages her fellow educators to step outside of their comfort zones and incorporate STEM learning into their programs. Her extensive core subject knowledge has helped her students gain the confidence to score in the high-achieving level for state testing. Julie describes herself as a life-long learner and feels she was destined to become a teacher and help children.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Rankin participates in Christmas caroling in her community. She creates and delivers Christmas and Veteran's Day cards to the elderly and makes donations to nearby homeless shelters and food banks. She works with her students to pick up trash in her community to celebrate Earth Day and donates time and money for cancer patients and research.

When asked to describe the rewards she finds in teaching, Ms. Rankin has this to say. "One of the greatest rewards is teaching students to believe in themselves and the ability to persevere when things become difficult. Seeing the excitement on their faces when they finally understand a difficult concept or task is priceless to me. I absolutely love finding ways to teach a child new things."

Ms. Rankin graduated with her BS in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) where she is currently pursuing her master's degree in STEM Education. She is part of a nationwide network of Noyce Master Teaching Fellows.

Great Plains Communications awards the honor of Outstanding Teacher of the Year to one individual annually from the areas the company serves 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.

### **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](http://www.gpcom.com).

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