

# SRT NEWSletter

## SRT WINS SMART RURAL COMMUNITY AWARD

NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association named SRT a 2024 Smart Rural Community Showcase Award winner last fall.

NTCA presents Smart Rural Community Showcase Awards annually to rural broadband providers who have led collaborative, innovative projects that advance the communities they serve. SRT earned the award for hosting **Rural Prosperity: A Workshop for Enriching Communities**.

In October 2023, SRT welcomed roughly 30 leaders and champions, representing more than a dozen communities across north-central North Dakota, to the collaborative workshop at its headquarters in Minot. The Rural Prosperity event offered the opportunity for attendees to learn about available funding and other resources, connect with their peers, hear real-life success stories from other communities, and begin building plans to help their own communities thrive.

Guest speakers included Erin Oban, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Megan Langley, Founder and Executive Director of Strengthen ND; and Brian Gion of The Rural Electric and Telcom Development Center. The day's agenda covered the benefits of incremental growth and building a culture of momentum, how the cooperative model can pool shared services to meet vital needs in rural communities, and available funding resources.

"It made my day to see all of those community leaders in the same room for our Rural Prosperity Workshop," said Cassidy

Hjelmstad, SRT CEO and General Manager. "A cornerstone—and responsibility—of SRT's vision is to be an economic catalyst for the region. Each of these leaders is a catalyst for their own community, which is why we brought them together to share ideas and inspire each other."

Langley wrapped up the day with an interactive session on putting "Big Dreams" into practice by breaking down the work and building a coalition of partners. Attendees networked with each other throughout the day and left with practical information for their own communities.

Hjelmstad continued, "These Smart Rural Communities have SRT's broadband infrastructure, as well as our unwavering support, to help them achieve their development goals. SRT is committed to

collaborating with local, regional, and state leadership to advance collective prosperity for all, and we are grateful to NTCA for this honor."

SRT is designated as a Smart Rural Community<sup>SM</sup> provider by NTCA. Smart Rural Communities promote innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art health care, and other important services for Rural America.



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# SRT ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025

5:30 p.m. - Meal and Voting / 7:00 p.m. - Business Meeting  
ND STATE FAIR CENTER / 2005 BURDICK EXPY E. / MINOT, ND

Looking forward to seeing you June 19th!

[SRT.COM/ANNUALMEETING](https://SRT.COM/ANNUALMEETING)

## PROCEDURE FOR THE NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

The purpose of the SRT Annual Meeting is to elect directors to the Board of Directors and hold a business meeting of the cooperative. SRT's 12-member Board of Directors represents our service area throughout the year by attending monthly board meetings, serving on state associations, attending community events, and supporting SRT in the national telecommunications space. Directors are elected to serve a three-year term. Beginning April 21, 2025, the following steps must be taken if you are interested in becoming a candidate for election as an SRT Director.

### PROCEDURE STEPS:

1. A Nomination of Directors Petition Form indicating the director district must be obtained from SRT headquarters (principal office of the cooperative) located at 3615 North Broadway in Minot. Petitions will be available beginning April 21, 2025.
2. Fifteen (15) or more members from the same district from which the nomination is being made must sign the written petition. A married couple constitutes one membership. Either spouse may sign this petition as a member. However, the signature of married spouses on this petition may only be counted as one of the fifteen (15) members necessary to nominate a director.
3. All nominations by petition must be received at SRT headquarters located at 3615 North Broadway in Minot no earlier than April 21, 2025, nor later than May 20, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. Petitions postmarked before May 20, 2025, but arriving by mail after May 20, 2025, cannot be accepted.
4. All nominations by petition are subject to verification of membership of signatories. Once verification is complete, the candidate will be notified and their name will appear on the ballot at SRT's Annual Meeting. Nominations for director candidates will not be accepted from the floor at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

# CONGRATULATIONS, RETIREES!

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**Lorna Henderson** retired after a 27-year career at SRT. Prior to her most recent role of Network Assurance Specialist, she started in the former DirecTV Department then served as Customer Billing/Credit Representative and NOC Specialist.



**Jami Brossart** worked at SRT for 23 years prior to retiring this winter. She joined SRT in July 2001 as a Business Service Representative and served in that position throughout her career.



**Kelli Reiter** retired after nearly 30 years at SRT. She began in the TV Department before becoming a Customer Service Representative and then an Outside Plant Engineering Records Specialist.



**Todd Christman** retired in January after more than 30 years at SRT. He began his career as a TV Technician, then spent time as a Communications Systems Technician, Central Office Technician, and COT Foreman before becoming Supervisor to Combination Technicians and CSTs.



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## ALLYCE SCHERESKY EARNS EAGLE AWARD

An SRT customer nominated Allyce Scheresky, Member Service Specialist, for an Eagle Award in December. She noted how helpful and knowledgeable Allyce was when helping her with connection issues on her phone and iPad. The nominator shared that Allyce was especially patient and is "SRT's hidden gem."

*Thank you, Allyce, for your consistent and excellent customer service!*



# SRT CARES



**NORSK HØSTFEST** - SRT, a proud sponsor of the Norsk Høstfest, took photos of festival goers in front of a Scandinavian backdrop. The 2024 scene at the SRT booth was set in Norway's Lofoten Islands.



**HOMECOMING PARADE** - SRT Board President Kristi Miller shared candy with students at the Westhope Homecoming parade in September. Go Sioux!



**HOMECOMING PARADE** - SRT Director Tom Jespersen tossed more candy at the Velvea Homecoming parade in October. Go Aggies!



**GIRL SCOUTS BIG EVENT** - Network Operations Supervisor Dane Fosburg hosted a STEM activity for Minot Area Girl Scouts and the annual "BIG Event" in October.



**CO-OP MONTH** - National Co-op Month was celebrated in October. SRT offered treats and coffee to walk-in customers every Wednesday, featuring local businesses throughout the service area.

CONNECT WITH US





**MSU'S NODAKON** - Jersey Kelly, Network Operations Engineer, spoke on a cybersecurity panel at MSU's Nodakon. The panel focused on asset protection.



**MSU TECH DAY** - Chief Technology Officer Shawn Grosz presented awards at the 24th SRT Tech Day on Minot State University's campus. Area high school students competed in business- and technology-related topics like Presentation Software, Cybersecurity, and Business Fundamentals.



**MINOT AREA CAREER EXPO** - Jordan Kelly, Network Operations Manager, taught high schoolers about secure Internet connections at the Minot Area Career Expo.



**EMPLOYEE BLOOD DRIVE** - Employees are invited three times a year to donate blood at Vitalant blood drives held at SRT headquarters.



**BACKPACK BUDDIES** - In December, employees volunteered to pack more than 400 meals at Souris Valley United Way to help with the Backpack Buddies program. The program provides food for school children who might not otherwise have food over the weekend.



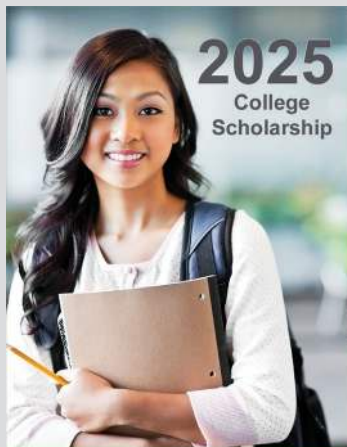
More money, more scholarships!



## SRT SCHOLARSHIP - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Since 1989, SRT has awarded college scholarships to outstanding students in our local communities.

**We are excited to announce we have increased the number and dollar amounts of our scholarships.**



The SRT College Scholarship Program awards six \$2,000 scholarships annually to high school seniors in the SRT service area based on community involvement, extra curricular activities, GPA, and an essay response.



The SRT Technical Scholarship awards \$3,000 to one high school senior or undergraduate student studying telecommunications or other technology-related fields.

Visit [srt.com/srtcares](http://srt.com/srtcares) to apply. All applications are due March 31, 2025. Scholarship winners will be announced in April.

## SRT AND RDFC GRANTS SUPPORT GRANVILLE VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) awarded a \$750 grant, which SRT matched with



an additional \$750, toward purchasing a newly installed Veterans Memorial Monument in Granville Cemetery.

Contributions from local businesses, organizations, and individuals helped bring total donations to nearly \$14,000. The result is a “nice, lasting monument for the community and all veterans, where we can gather and honor those who served,” said Jeff Smette of Granville American Legion Post 155.

The monument was installed on a cement pad where four crosses have marked this ground for years, honoring two World War I veterans and two World War II veterans.

Kristi Miller, SRT Board President, said of SRT’s matching grant, “This monument marks the indelible gratitude we all have for those who have made such profound sacrifice to defend our nation and way of life. SRT is humbled to support our military and is proud to be part of this community coming together for veterans.”

SRT is among the North Dakota rural telecommunication and electric cooperatives that are members of RDFC, a nonprofit finance and development corporation that provides funding for economic development and diversification projects in rural North Dakota. Applications are submitted to RDFC and, if approved for funding, are matched 100% by SRT.



**ALWAYS HAVE YOUR PHONE  
BOOK WITH YOU!**

**SRT ONLINE DIRECTORY  
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SRT Minot Phone Directory



## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE: HELP IS ONLY THREE DIGITS AWAY

“988” is the three-digit, nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Simply calling or texting 988 will connect you to compassionate mental health professionals who can provide care and support, or help you support a friend in need.

### STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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(voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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PO Box 2027  
Minot, ND 58702-2027

701.858.1200  
800.737.9130  
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# 20 Times the Gratitude

**THANK YOU**, Minot Daily  
News readers, for  
selecting SRT as  
**Best Internet Provider**  
for 20 straight years.

Your trust in our service  
inspires us every day.



2024 BEST OF THE BEST

