



**NEWS RELEASE
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WTA AWARDS PRESIDENT'S AWARD TO JACK H RHYNER

HELENA, MONTANA – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 – The Western Telecommunications Alliance (WTA) today announced that Jack H Rhyner of TelAlaska, Anchorage, Alaska was awarded the President's Award. Mr. Rhyner was selected to receive the award on August 20, 2007, by the association's President Rob Stephens.

“Jack has been committed to ensuring that consumers living in rural and high cost areas of the country have access to telecommunications services at levels comparable to those consumers living in urban areas”, said Stephens. “His tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed and it was a pleasure for me to present Jack with the President's Award on behalf of WTA.”

Bob Mueller formerly of Mid-State Consultants received the Associate Member Award; Outgoing Board Members were Tom Hruza, Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company; John Jones, CenturyTel; and Rand Moritzky, NFU Insurance were honored and recognized for their service to WTA.

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Background:

The Western Telecommunications Alliance represents more than 250 rural telephone companies in 24 states west of the Mississippi River. On average, WTA members serve less than 3,000 customers, and fewer than 500 customers per exchange. Our members serve some of the highest cost and lowest density areas in the country with some of the most rugged terrain, harshest weather conditions and socioeconomic situations arguably making it the nation's most difficult areas to serve.

WTA encourages its members to tackle critical issues together by providing a forum for issue and problem identification, discussion and resolution. WTA seeks to promote and facilitate the exchange of industry information and promote unity as the preferred industry solution. WTA aims to unite a diverse industry to deliver influence in the western states and in Washington D.C. that reflects its members' importance in providing high quality telecommunications services for rural Americans.

Visit the WTA Web site at www.w-t-a.org.