

ITC SCHOLARSHIPS

Hey Seniors! It is scholarship time, and ITC has the perfect scholarship for you! The ITC and Dean E. Anderson scholarships are available to assist with some of the financial burdens. If you live in the ITC service area, now is the time to check with your school about this scholarship!

ITC offers twenty-four Dean E. Anderson scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend a post-secondary institution in either South Dakota or Minnesota. Each scholarship is worth \$700 and will be awarded this spring. The scholarships were created to assist seniors who want to continue their education. Since the 1990s, ITC has given out over \$400,000.

Scholarships will be awarded to one graduating senior from each of the twenty-three school districts in the ITC service area. Scholarship applicants' parents or guardians must maintain at least one ITC service (Phone and Internet). Students must plan to attend a post-secondary institution located in either South Dakota or Minnesota.

One \$700 scholarship will also be awarded to a graduating senior who attends a school other than the school in the district where they reside due to open enrollment. This student's parents or guardians must also maintain at least one ITC service (Phone and Internet) to be eligible for this scholarship.

Please pick up an application packet from your school counselor or print it from our website at www.itc-web.com/about/community-involvement. For additional information and a complete listing of terms and conditions, visit the scholarship section on the ITC website. Completed applications must be submitted to your high school principal/counselor for review by February 28. Open enrollment applications are also due to the ITC Clear Lake office by February 28.

If you have a student who plans to go to a post-secondary institution, encourage them to check out the scholarships offered by ITC!

Your Wi-Fi Deserves a Little Youe



Upgrade your Internet and get a \$25 credit!

Could your Internet use more speed? Treat yourself to the ultimate Internet experience—upgrade to a faster Internet package today and get a \$25 one-time bill credit!



www.itc-web.com 1.800.417.8667



2025 PHONE BOOK

The 2025 ITC Phone Book has arrived! Check out all the helpful items in the front of the book, like emergency numbers, prefixes and area codes, the ITC By-Laws, and financial assistance programs.

If you no longer want

a print version of the book, you can opt-out by going to www.yellowpagesoptout.com or calling 1.800.343.8086. If you prefer to look at the online phone book option, go to www.localsolution.com. Enjoy the new book!

ITC University:

READY FOR THE FUTURE

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

When setting up your home Internet, you need a connection that's fast, reliable, and ready for anything—whether it's for work meetings, streaming, gaming, or managing smart devices. Do you prioritize fiber's speed and reliability or settle for the portability of cellular or satellite despite their limitations? The answer is clear: fiber delivers faster speeds, greater reliability, and better value for everyday home and business use.

ITC fiber delivers speeds up to 1 GIG per second, with the potential for even faster speeds as our network grows. Unlike many Internet options, such as cellular and satellite, which often prioritize download speeds while significantly limiting uploads, ITC fiber offers symmetrical speeds—your uploads are just as fast as your downloads. This is a significant advantage for gaming, video calls, and sharing large files. Plus, fiber delivers stable and reliable performance, unaffected by factors like signal strength, distance from towers, weather, or physical obstructions such as trees or buildings, which can make cellular connections unpredictable.

ITC fiber users rarely experience downtime, and when they do, it's typically related to the Wi-Fi setup, not the fiber connection. These issues are not unique to fiber and are the same problems you encounter with any Internet service, including cellular or satellite. Common Wi-Fi issues across all platforms include interference from devices like microwaves or baby monitors or weak signals in areas far from the router, such as upstairs bedrooms or basements. Fortunately, these problems are often easy to resolve with simple adjustments, like repositioning your router, updating its firmware, or adding a Wi-Fi mesh extender. If you need help, our team is ready to troubleshoot, and we'll even replace your ITC leased equipment free of charge.

Fiber offers a distinct advantage for gamers and streamers with ultra-low latency, typically under 10 milliseconds. In contrast, cellular connections often experience a latency between 20 and 50 milliseconds. Satellite connections can have a latency of 500-600 milliseconds, making some games virtually unplayable. That level of responsiveness can be the difference between winning and losing in an online match or enjoying smooth, uninterrupted video calls. To get the most out of your gaming experience, connecting your console directly to your router with an ethernet cable can further reduce lag and improve performance, especially in high-traffic environments. Fiber also excels at handling multiple devices simultaneously. Whether you're managing smart home systems, streaming your favorite shows, or working remotely, fiber ensures everything runs smoothly without any slowdown. In contrast, 5G networks can become congested in busy areas and may be unavailable in rural areas, leading to frustrating drops in speed and performance.

Don't settle for interruptions or slow speeds. Let ITC fiber provide a seamless experience today. For questions on what Fiber-Fast Internet can do for your home, call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

FEBRUARY CLASS: AI

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

The topic of February's ITC University classes will be The Good and Bad of Artificial Intelligence (AI). These classes will be held at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM in Clear Lake, Webster, Milbank, Brookings, and Ivanhoe. There is no charge for ITC University classes.

During class, we will be teaching you how to create letters, pictures, and videos using AI tools. Then, we will get into what you need to watch out for to keep yourself safe in this new AI world.

To see dates in these communities and sign up for class, please scan the QR code to the right or go

to www.itc-web.com/itcuniversity.

Al will be an interesting topic to discuss. If you have any questions about classes, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667. We hope to see you in class!



DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

The National Do Not Call Registry was established by the Federal Trade Commission to offer a choice of receiving telemarketing calls at home or on your cell phone. You can call or go online to register or remove a number from the National Do Not Call Registry. Registration is free. Telemarketers have 31 days to remove your number from their call lists.

To register by phone or verify a number on the registry, call 1.888.382.1222 or TTY, call 1.866.290.4236 from the phone you want to register.

To register online or verify a number on the registry, go to www.donotcall.gov. If you register online, you will receive a confirmation email from donotcall.gov. You must click the link in the email within 72 hours to complete your registration.

With the Do Not Call Registry, you may still receive political, charitable, debt collection, information, and telephone survey calls. A company can still call if you've recently done business with them or permitted them to contact you. A company must honor your request if you ask them not to call.

Phone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently unless you ask them to remove it.

WATCH OUT FOR PEDESTALS

Watch out for pedestals when removing snow. They are a distribution center that provides fiber-optic services to you and your neighbors. These pedestals offer network access to emergency, cellular, TV, and broadband services. If one becomes damaged, services could be affected. Don't be the cause of an outage. If you come



across a damaged pedestal, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.