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ATMC Receives National Recognition as a Smart Rural Community Provider

Shallotte, NC – ATMC announced today that it has received a national award as a Smart Rural Community provider from the NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, a designation which recognizes the efforts of rural telecommunications providers who deliver technologies that make rural communities dynamic places to live and do business. The goal of the initiative is to foster the development of smart communities throughout rural America by recognizing trailblazers and providing resources to assist broadband providers and connected industries.

“ATMC is a prime example of the power of a broadband connection and a steadfast commitment to growth and prosperity,” said Shirley Bloomfield, NTCA Chief Executive Officer. “Not only are the people of ATMC charting a path to a more prosperous future in their local communities, they are also creating a road map for many more communities across the country to follow suit. I commend the people of ATMC for these extraordinary efforts.”

Over the years, ATMC has helped to bring fiber optic technology to all Brunswick County public schools, local health care facilities, the Brunswick County 911 Communications Center and more. ATMC’s ongoing network upgrade and expansion project was a major factor in its selection for the prestigious award. ATMC has provided fiber optic communications services to residential neighborhoods in growing areas of the county as well as to the business districts of Leland and Shallotte. ATMC is now working to provide fiber optic services to residents and businesses in Oak Island and Ocean Isle Beach. By 2021, the cooperative plans to install fiber in all key

business districts of Brunswick County. Through its Project 2019, the cooperative has also begun the process of upgrading nearly 4,000 rural members to have Internet speeds of up to 500 Mbps.

“We are extremely excited about this award,” said O’Neal Miller, ATMC CEO. “ATMC has made it a part of our mission to improve and help foster growth in the communities we live in and serve. We have continued to invest in rural areas that large national providers continue to ignore and we understand how important it is for residents and businesses here to have access to the types of technologies that enable innovation and encourage growth. This designation as a Smart Rural Community provider is testament to our commitment to improving the lives of those living and doing business here in Brunswick County.”

For more information about what ATMC is doing to increase access to broadband in Brunswick County, visit atmc.com or call 910-754-4311.

Pictured accepting the award are ATMC Board of Directors – (front row) Whitney King, Buster Dowless, Doug Hawes (Board President); (back row) Al Parker, Randy Hardee and Jamie Milliken.

About ATMC

ATMC is a member-owned cooperative providing a multitude of communications services, including telephone, business systems, wireless, Internet/Broadband, cable television service, and ATMC Security, in Brunswick and Columbus Counties in southeastern North Carolina. ATMC is the largest communications cooperative in North Carolina and one of the largest in the country. For more information on ATMC products and services, visit atmc.com.

About NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA advocates on behalf of its members in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and it provides training and development; publications and industry events; and an array of employee benefit programs. In an era of exploding technology, deregulation and marketplace competition, NTCA’s members are leading the IP evolution for rural consumers, delivering technologies that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Because of their efforts, rural America is fertile ground for innovation in economic development and commerce, education, health care, government services, security and smart energy use. Visit us at www.ntca.org.