

**By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

For dedicated service and a deep commitment to his community, Grant resident Brandon Wood has been awarded the 2010 Great Plains Communications' Community Service Award.

Wood, whose current position is broadband technician, has been employed by Great Plains since April 1999.

Wood said he was speechless when told he had been selected as this year's recipient.

"I felt honored to be nominated for the Community Service Award," said Wood. "It's really great to work for a company that encourages their employees to give back to the communities they serve."



He was presented the award during a dinner in his honor on Tuesday in Broken Bow. A celebration of his winning the service award will be held at another dinner in his honor in Kansas City during October at the Mid-America Telecomm Showcase and Seminar.

The former resident of Hayes Center was just as committed to that community as he is to the Grant community.

He served as a member of the Hayes Center Fire and Rescue Department and the Hayes Center Squad as a nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). While in the Hayes Center area he served two terms as the mayor and two terms as chairman for the Hayes Center Board of Health.

Wood met criteria for his recent award by possessing a strong commitment to the community through volunteer work and other activities.

An effort toward betterment of his community frequently shines through during the year. He currently serves as a leader of Boy Scouts and is a member of the local Grant Rotary Club. He supports the Perkins County Chamber of Commerce by taking part in meetings and community events such as the annual Fourth of July celebration and the annual pancake feed during the county fair.

In nominating Wood for the award, Jason Grigg, Great Plains district manager, said, "Brandon consistently displays an attitude and demeanor of serving Great Plains Communications customers and his community."

"Whether he is asked or recognizes a need, Brandon is always willing to volunteer his time and effort."