



# The Pioneer Projects and Programs Periodical

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www.telecompioneers.org 303-571-1200



## Awards Program

*Contributed By Kari Biesendorfer*



### A Historical Perspective on the "Spirit of Service"

Nearly 100 years ago a tradition so evident in Pioneering was born when the outdoor plant of our infant telephone industry met and passed its first service test. "The Spirit of Service" commemorates that historical event. It was during the great blizzard in New York before dawn on March 12, 1888, when all other means of communication failed between Boston and New York that the toll line remained in service, thanks to the foresight of the builders and the courage and dedication of the men who watched over it. The storm was the worst to hit this nation in a century. It paralyzed the Northeast, piling drifts as high as houses, blocking every highway, knocking out all telegraph and train service, and almost—but not quite - eliminating telephone service. These, of course, were the days of open wire construction, when the telephone system was subject to the worst

*Please see Awards Program on page 2*

## Project Wildbird

*Prepared By Bekah Wyman*

Project Wildbird is the first comprehensive study of wild birds in the United States and Canada regarding feed and feeder preferences. The ongoing project monitors the preferences of common birds specific to geographic regions during different seasons in the year. Project Wildbird began in September 22, 2005 and will continue through September 20, 2008; the study is presented by the Wild Bird Feeding Industry (WBFI) and the WBFI Research Foundation.

The project has received a mass of support because of the positive impact on the industry and because it can provide recommendations to get the most out of backyard feeding. The data gathered from the project will aid in determining the correct feed formulas and in establishing which mixes are best for which purposes. The scientific study will provide advice as to which product will attract the types of birds consumers want to attract, therefore maximizing their bird feeding and observing experiences.

This is a great way to combine a favorite pastime with volunteerism to contribute to a North American wild bird study. There are two featured

*Please see Project Wildbird on page 3*

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*Through Project Wildbird, WBFI is providing an opportunity to become part of a scientific bird study throughout the United States and Canada!*

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*Awards Program from page 1*

the elements could offer. The telephone industry was in its infancy—Bell had invented the phone just 12 years earlier.

**Angus Macdonald** was a 23-year-old lineman in 1888. He was part of a crew that worked through that blinding storm—patrolling the lines and repairing breaks wherever they found them—to keep open the last remaining long distance line between New York and Boston.

Thanks to the dedication of Macdonald and his fellow workers, New York was never without at least some long distance telephone service. But, for several days, the telephone was New York's only means of communication with the rest of the world.

Because of his part in this historic event, Macdonald was asked to pose for the painting that was commissioned in honor of the dedication of those brave workers. It would come to be known as "**The Spirit of Service**" and would serve as a tribute to generations of dedicated telephone people. Macdonald was an active Telephone Pioneer as well as a dedicated telephone man. In fact, he, along with Alexander Graham Bell and 243 other telephone people, attended the very first Pioneer meeting in Boston in 1911. Macdonald retired from the Long Lines department in the '30s after more than 48 years of service. He belonged to the Life Member Club of the Edward J. Hall Chapter in New York at the time of his death in 1958 at age 94.

The spirit of service didn't die out when old-timers like Angus Macdonald retired. It's still very much alive today, and, over the years, telephone employees have seen how essential that spirit is in providing our country with the world's best telephone service—not just in responding to emergencies, as important as that is, but in meeting our day-to-day commitments as well.

"Spirit of Service" info came from:

<http://www.bellsouthpioneers.org/SpiritServiceReg.htm>

### TelecomPioneers Awards Program Overview

TelecomPioneers have adopted the spirit and rendering of Angus Macdonald for their international awards program also titled, "The Spirit of Service." Each application form must be sent in electronic format to your group Awards Committee Member (or Area Manager if AT&T) on or before **October 15**. Applications are subject to the first round of judging and/or qualification verification by an internal committee of judges. An external committee of judges will score the remaining applications to determine finalists and winners. All award winners will receive a bronze toned composite casting of Angus Macdonald matted on a ¾ inch solid walnut base with a personalized engraved plate and will be recognized in the business session at the Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

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*Angus Macdonald posed for The Spirit of Service painting that would serve as a tribute to generations of dedicated phone people.*

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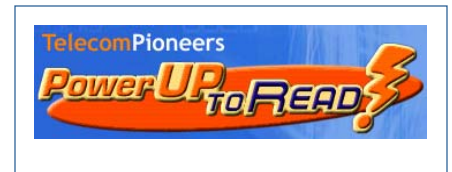


The Spirit of Service

## PUTR Tutoring Project

By Bekah Wyman

TelecomPioneers introduced its new program, Power Up To Read (PUTR), this year. The main intent of Power Up To Read is to help children improve their reading comprehension and literary skills. The program is a multimedia reading application with universally designed features that improve literacy skills through a fun, interactive approach. It is designed to meet and support the academic standards for English Language Arts presented by the International Reading Association (IRA) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), as well as the complying with the technology standards expressed by the International Society of Technology Education (ISTE). PUTR also adopts the "No Child Left Behind" goal to develop students' literary skills by combining visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning methods in one program.



PUTR program content is intended for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students as they transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" where children are expected to rely heavily on their reading skills to absorb information and to learn other subject areas in the curriculum. This critical transitional phase is when many students are diagnosed with "learning disorders" if they fall behind the average student's skills although many students do not have a learning disability, but simply require a different teaching approach or a little more support.



Power Up To Read provides a positive direction at this critical point in the educational process by concentrating on building vocabulary, word recognition, fluency, and reading comprehension. Despite the support and interaction provided by the program, the most effective way to

*Please see PUTR Tutoring Project on page 6*

*Project Wildbird from page 1*

approaches to gathering data for feeder and feed preferences, the Observational Approach and the Experimental Approach, and both provide the opportunity to use a hobby to advance the scientific research. Project Wildbird is designed to be easy to contribute to and is also easy to enter the collected data online. WBFi will provide supplies (feed, feeders, poles, and baffles) completely free of cost to interested, experienced backyard feeders in exchange for data for the scientific bird feeding study. Also provided are instructions and hints regarding how to monitor birds, collecting data, feeder placement, maintaining feeders, seed information, and rotation schedules.

When an account is set up and the application is submitted to Dr. David Horn at Millikin University for review, his office will respond with a personal phone call to the applicant to explain the research protocol. Another feature of the project is a bulletin board for Experimental Citizen Scientists, and any Pioneer will be able to communicate with citizen scientists throughout the US and Canada. Citizen scientists can post pictures of birds at their feeders in the photo album feature. These features of the project create a community with open communication between Pioneers and other citizen scientists contributing to this study.

<http://www.wbfi.org/PROJECTWILDBIRD/>

<http://www.projectwildbird.org>

<http://www.wbfi.org/pdf/PWBYear1Flyer.pdf>

Project Wildbird Headquarters: 1-866-WILDBIRD

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*Project Wildbird is a way to combine a favorite pastime with volunteerism, and is completely free of cost.*

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*Awards Program from page 2*

The TelecomPioneers International Awards include the following awards and grants:

**Awards:**

1. Chapter of Excellence
2. Community Impact
3. Project Excellence
  - a. Education
  - b. Life Enrichment
  - c. Health and Human Services
  - d. Environment
  - e. Telecom Challenge (the premier category)
4. Individual Pioneer Excellence (6)
5. Association Project Awards

**Grants:**

6. Foundation Fund Grant
7. Dodds Fund Grant



Individual Excellence Award winners Leni Herr, Sarah DePaolo, and Tom DePaolo; Verizon Pioneers, Kinnard Chapter  
<http://www.verizonpioneers.com/>

**About the Physical Awards**

All award winners will receive a bronze toned composite casting of Angus Macdonald matted on a ¾ inch solid walnut base with a personalized engraved plate. If Pioneer units would like to order Angus by himself in fine grade pewter casting, on a smaller walnut base with personalized engraved plates, please contact John Shaw at Fountain Creek Productions.

E-mail: [sales@fountaincreek.com](mailto:sales@fountaincreek.com)

Phone Number: 1-800-433-5858

The 2007 Awards Manual and individual overviews and applications can be downloaded from TCP's website at: <http://www.telecompioneers.org/awards/awardslist.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact your Group's Awards Committee Member or Kari Biesendorfer, Program Manager, TelecomPioneers, at 303-571-9262, or via email at [kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org](mailto:kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org).

**Physical Awards:** Chapter of Excellence, Community Impact, Project Excellence, Individual Excellence, International Awards

**Monetary Grants/Awards:** Foundation Fund, Dodds Fund, Telecom Challenge

## International Awards Committee Members

TCP, Chair	Kari Biesendorfer	800-872-5995 x. 262	<a href="mailto:kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org">kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org</a>
TCP	Bekah Wyman	800-872-5995 x. 250	<a href="mailto:bwyman@telecompioneers.org">bwyman@telecompioneers.org</a>
TCP	Marty Lee	800-872-5995 x. 240	<a href="mailto:mlee@telecompioneers.org">mlee@telecompioneers.org</a>
AT&T	John Lyon	(314) 235-9430	<a href="mailto:jl7169@att.com">jl7169@att.com</a>
Legacy Bellsouth	Laura McAdam	(502) 456-5397	<a href="mailto:Laura.McAdam@BellSouth.com">Laura.McAdam@BellSouth.com</a>
Canada	Anna Ebsary	(709) 364-1936	<a href="mailto:anna.ebsary@nf.sympatico.ca">anna.ebsary@nf.sympatico.ca</a>
Frontier	Debbie Fasciano	(585) 777-5823	<a href="mailto:deborah.fasciano@frontiercorp.com">deborah.fasciano@frontiercorp.com</a>
New Outlook	Cheryl Malone	(614) 475-8361	<a href="mailto:yugogirl21@aol.com">yugogirl21@aol.com</a>
Qwest	Karee Gray	(719) 290-0271	<a href="mailto:karee.gray@qwest.com">karee.gray@qwest.com</a>
Verizon	George Albright	(908) 303-5685	<a href="mailto:gclownboy30@verizon.net">gclownboy30@verizon.net</a>

We encourage Pioneers to attend training sessions that are being offered for the below programs. The sessions last about an hour each and provide a high-end overview of the programs as well as a visual walk-through of the website features. Pioneers can obtain a username and password (if one has not already been assigned) to navigate and become familiar with the websites. The meetings are offered through WebEx and make great presentations for group meetings.

#### Project Connect Training Schedule-August:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Thursday, August 16, 2007	8:00 a.m.
Monday, August 20, 2007	3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 22, 2007	12:00 p.m. NOON
Tuesday, August 28, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Friday, August 31, 2007	12:00 p.m. NOON

#### Project Connect Training Schedule-September:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Tuesday, September 4, 2007	12:00 p.m. NOON
Wednesday, September 5, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 11, 2007	11:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 13, 2007	1:00 p.m.
Monday, September 17, 2007	3:00 p.m.
Friday, September 21, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 25, 2007	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 26, 2007	9:00 a.m.

#### PUTR Training Schedule-August:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Wednesday, August 15, 2007	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 21, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, August 23, 2007	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 30, 2007	11:00 a.m.
Friday, August 31, 2007	10:00 a.m.

#### PUTR Training Schedule-September:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Wednesday, September 5, 2007	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 6, 2007	11:00 a.m.
Monday, September 10, 2007	3:00 p.m.
Friday, September 14, 2007	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 18, 2007	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 19, 2007	12:00 p.m. NOON
Monday, September 24, 2007	11:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 27, 2007	1:00 p.m.

To register for a WebEx training session please call Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator, at 800-872-5995 x. 250. Each session is limited to 15 participants. After you have been registered for a session you will be e-mailed the meeting details. Please try to register at least 2 days in advance.



### *PUTR Tutoring Project from page 3*

reach students is still through tutoring. Pioneers across the US and in Canada can volunteer to participate to implement this program and help to provide this program to any and all teachers, parents, tutors, volunteers, and children interested in Power Up To Read to build literacy.

This program is already spreading throughout Pioneer chapters, councils, and clubs everywhere and is generating a great deal of interest and enthusiasm. AT&T Pioneer Danny Vernon (Arkansas) recently presented Power Up To Read at a Partners In Education (PIE) conference, which generated an outstanding reception. Danny received many positive comments and reactions from PIE, including:

- Enjoyment of the correlation of the fictional story followed by the factual story of the spider and of the sun.
- Enthusiasm for the journal feature for students to enter their thoughts and students' own progress of the book/reading.
- Favor for and satisfaction in the strategy selections used in the program.
- Appreciation for the linked glossary to underlined words in the text because it is very beneficial.
- Attracted to the retelling the story activity.

Danny also provided a personal testimony for the program to show his enthusiasm and support in commenting:

They were as excited as I am about this project and the possibilities. I have a long list of tutors to register. This PIE (Partners In Education) conference had about 200 attendees made up of teachers, principals, and corporate/business partners. There were 10 sessions to choose from that they could attend. My first session had about 25 people, and the second session had about 15. This was an awesome venue to present this project. I am presenting it to the entire staff at our partner school, Tilles Elementary, in the next couple of days. I am anxious to see the results of Benchmark testing after this program is implemented. *Way to go TelecomPioneers! [This is] an outstanding initiative that will be hard to top!*

TelecomPioneers invites everyone to join the growing number of Pioneers already volunteering to educate others about the program and to help implement Power Up To Read throughout the United States and Canada. PUTR has already produced a great deal of interest and eagerness and is on its way to creating even more. Make a difference in the community by helping to educate students and spark a passion for reading and for language arts. Becoming a tutor to make the most of this innovative program and joining the network of Pioneer tutors is a very rewarding and satisfying experience that gives back to the future of the community by reaching its children.

\*To get involved as a PUTR Tutor, please contact your Group Coordinator or Chapter/Council/Club president.

\*TCP is still offering ongoing training sessions for Power Up To Read. Please review the schedule on Page 5 before scheduling a session. Please try to schedule at least two (2) days prior to the meeting date.

## Networking Project Connect

*By Bekah Wyman*

On Monday, August 6, 2007, Ian Bogost appeared on Comedy Central's *The Colbert Report*. Ian was one of the developers of the first version of Project Connect that was released in June 2005, and he just released his book, *Persuasive Games: the Expressive Power of videogames*. During the interview he gives his perspective on how videogames can be and are used for more than purely entertainment. Ian shares his opinion that "if we think of videogames as a medium, something that can express ideas in the same way as film, or television, or books can, then we have a good start. Then the next question is, 'how do they do it?' And the way videogames do it is by making models of something, we take the computer and we model the way things work." Ian features Project Connect on his website; TelecomPioneers has already seen interest generated by visitors of Ian's website, and we look forward to receiving more.

To watch Ian's interview, go to: [http://www.comedycentral.com/motherload/?lnk=v&ml\\_video=91012](http://www.comedycentral.com/motherload/?lnk=v&ml_video=91012)



## TelecomPioneers Needs Power Up To Read Tutors for Pilot Project in Colorado Springs, Colorado!

*Attention Pioneers! TelecomPioneers headquarters is in need of individuals (members and non-members) interested in volunteering as a tutor for a pilot of the Power Up To Read program at Trailblazer Elementary in Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

The details of the pilot are still being worked out, but here is what we know at this time:

### Grade Levels and program delivery methods:

- One on one with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who are above the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading/comprehension proficiency level.
- In a group with 4<sup>th</sup> graders via smart board/projection system.
- One on one and in a group with 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

All students will be tutored via the web-based program and supplemented with the print material.

### Sessions:

- Tutoring will take place during the school day twice a week for ½ hour segments during the Fall semester - August - December.
  - Tutor training date (TBD)
  - Launch date (TBD)
  - Time of ½ hour segments during school day (TBD)
- Possibility of using in after-school tutoring program as well.

### Determining Pilot Participants:

- Kids will be tested at the beginning of school and receive a reading proficiency level.
  - a. Number of kids participating (TBD)
- Teachers will determine what kids will be put in to one of the PUTR tutoring sessions based on testing scores.

### Assessing the Program:

- Upon completion of the PUTR sessions, participants will be tested a second time and assigned a new reading proficiency level to verify if participation in PUTR did indeed improve their reading comprehension skills.

If you are interested in assisting the TelecomPioneers headquarters with this pilot project, please respond to a Pilot Tutor Coordinator as soon as possible! (See Resources on Page 7)

Pilot tutors will be put into a random drawing for an all expense paid trip to the 2008 TelecomPioneers Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008! Participation in a breakout session on an Education Panel regarding pilot participation would be mandatory. Pilot tutors will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

If interested in participating in this Pilot Project, please contact:

Chuck Wykoff, AT&T  
[Shutterbug14@juno.com](mailto:Shutterbug14@juno.com)  
 (303) 690-1645

Karee Gray, Qwest  
[Karee.gray@qwest.com](mailto:Karee.gray@qwest.com)  
 (719) 290-0271

Jeanie Maas, Qwest  
[bossmass@aol.com](mailto:bossmass@aol.com)  
 (303) 683-4303

Patty Bodwell, New Outlook  
[Pattypioneer@att.net](mailto:Pattypioneer@att.net)  
 (303) 690-9740



## Implementing Project Connect

### Spotlight on Jay Foster!!

Jay Foster, AT&T Tennessee Pioneer, has created and organized a PC tournament for students in 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade across Tennessee. They are creating a total of 4 brackets and the winner of each bracket will be considered their "grade champion" and will be invited to the championship finals to compete for the grand prize. First prize for the entire tournament will be a savings bond in the amount of \$1,000 w/ second, third and fourth prizes awarded as well. For each student that reaches the "final four championship round," a \$150 check will be awarded to their school's computer lab. Please see the attached PDF for the complete rules.

Jay's group has also created a website that they will use to help coordinate the tournament:

[www.octobermadness.net](http://www.octobermadness.net)

Congratulations to Jay, who has come up with a great way to get Project Connect integrated into the local communities in Tennessee! This is a great example of how Pioneers can start incorporating Project Connect in schools and in out of school activities/programs!

For information on replicating this initiative, contact:

Jay Foster  
AT&T Tennessee Pioneer Volunteers  
865 539 8521  
[Jay.foster@att.com](mailto:Jay.foster@att.com)



Logo for Jay Foster's PC Tournament

## Resources

### Who do I contact if I need IT support?

Contact TCP's helpdesk by calling 800-572-5995 or by going to [www.telecompioneers.helpdeskconnect.com](http://www.telecompioneers.helpdeskconnect.com)

### To contact Danny about replicating his PUTR initiative:

Daniel J. Vernon  
AT&T Arkansas Pioneer Volunteers  
479.785.6705  
[daniel.vernon@att.com](mailto:daniel.vernon@att.com)

### Contact WBFi to get involved in Project Wildbird:

WBFi Research Foundation  
1305 N. Tahoe Trail  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110  
Phone: 888-839-1237  
HQ Phone: 1-866-WILDBIRD  
Fax: 605-275-6697  
E-mail: [info@wbfi.org](mailto:info@wbfi.org)  
<http://www.projectwildbird.org>



Susan M. Hays, CMP, Executive Director  
WBFi Research Foundation  
1305 N. Tahoe Trail  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110  
Phone: 888-839-1237  
Fax: 605-275-6697  
Email: [shays@wbfi.org](mailto:shays@wbfi.org)



For a Project Wildbird flyer:

<http://www.wbfi.org/pdf/PWBYear1Flyer.pdf>

### Contact TCP Resource Center:

TelecomPioneers  
930 15<sup>th</sup> St., 12<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Denver, CO 80202  
Email: [resource@telecompioneers.org](mailto:resource@telecompioneers.org)  
Phone: 1-800-976-1914, or (303) 571-1200  
Fax: 303-572-0520

## Pioneer Networking

### A brief history of the TelecomPioneers-Sherwin Williams Partnership:

My classmate from kindergarten, Warren Iredell, was talking to me at our 25th class reunion. We were catching up with each other's lives. I told him about a new project that Liberty Bell was doing - painting maps of the U.S. on school playgrounds. He asked how we were paying for the paint and I said with good old fashioned fund raising. Well, that was in '92. The next year Martin Senour, a subsidiary of Sherwin Williams, donated paint to our chapter, then they donated paint to the old "Region 8" chapters, then it went nationwide. Liberty Bell won the coveted "People Who Care" award in Pittsburgh in '94. Our Liberty Bell president was on *Good Morning America* being interviewed as people behind her painted a map on a Pittsburgh schoolyard. Warren and I were there when his company pledged to donate over a \$1M worth of paint to us each year. The partnership continues to this day, [and it] makes me so proud. And all it took was a little networking!

-Provided by Ellie Dickerson, Verizon TelecomPioneers

## Pioneer Updates & Corrections Retraction:

In the July issue of the Pioneer Projects & Programs Periodical, the contact e-mails for Jerry Adamson and Ron Simpson, Talking Book Group Coordinators, were incorrect. The state of Connecticut was also left off of the list of the Talking Books Coordinators, which is now under Darrel Teske.

Correct Contact E-mails:

### Jerry Adamson

Talking Book Coordinator for AT&T (IL, IN, MI, WI)  
E-mail: [tbrjerry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbrjerry@sbcglobal.net)

### Ron Simpson

Talking Book Coordinator for Verizon/Frontier (MA, ME, NH, VT)  
E-mail: [repsimpson@msn.com](mailto:repsimpson@msn.com)

### Darrel Teske

Talking Book Coordinator for AT&T (KS, OH, PA, CT)  
Phone: 913-631-4924  
E-mail: [darrelteske@att.net](mailto:darrelteske@att.net)

## Announcements:

TelecomPioneers' website has been updated! If you haven't already seen it, please check out TCP's newly improved website.

<http://www.telecompioneers.org/>

You can access all issues of the Pioneer Projects & Programs Periodical at our website.

<http://www.telecompioneers.org/projects/periodical.aspx>



*Questions, comments, or suggestions? Tell us how we're doing!*

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kAvfJ6D3R\\_2fglWTdHzQMmqQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kAvfJ6D3R_2fglWTdHzQMmqQ_3d_3d)



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303-571-1200, 1-800-872-5995

#### Fax:

303-572-0520

#### E-mail:

[info@telecompioneers.org](mailto:info@telecompioneers.org)

## Awards Update:

**Submission Process:** Complete the application 2007 form(s) provided to submit an application for any and all awards and grants. Each application form must be sent in electronic format to your group Awards Committee Member (or Area Manager if AT&T) on or before **October 15, 2007**. Applications are subject to the first round of judging and/or qualification verification by an internal committee of judges. An external committee of judges will score the remaining applications to determine finalists and winners. *Late applications will not be accepted.*

2007 application forms must be used - found at [www.telecompioneers.org](http://www.telecompioneers.org). Any version other than the 2007 form will be penalized on a point-basis.

The complete Awards Manual, individual overviews, submission instructions, and attachment instructions, are downloadable documents at: <http://www.telecompioneers.org/awards/awardslist.a.spx>

If you have any questions, please contact your Group's Awards Committee Member or Kari Biesendorfer, Program Manager, TelecomPioneers, at 303-571-9262, or via email at [kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org](mailto:kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org)

## Contact us:

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[bwyman@telecompioneers.org](mailto:bwyman@telecompioneers.org)

\*Images provided by ClipArt

\*Ian Bogost interview through [www.comedycentral.com](http://www.comedycentral.com)