



News Release

DFW Connector Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DFW CONNECTOR PROJECT: WORK ZONE SAFETY SCHOLARSHIPS

NorthGate Constructors to give three \$5,000 scholarships to local high school students

GRAPEVINE (November 8, 2011) — In recent months, the DFW Connector project has focused on promoting safe driving practices in the work zone to increase safety for both drivers and project workers.

To involve local communities in the project's work zone safety campaign, NorthGate Constructors is giving a \$5,000 scholarship to one student at each of the following local high schools: Grapevine High School, Colleyville Heritage High School and Carroll High School.

Students from freshman through senior classes can apply for one of the three work zone safety scholarships by submitting entries about the importance of:

1. Driving the posted 50 mph speed limit through the work zone.
2. Limiting cell phone usage while driving.

This initiative will involve the local community schools that are directly affected by the DFW Connector construction and educate new drivers traveling through the project on the importance of safe driving practices. Kristen Schropp, Public Information Coordinator for NorthGate Constructors, states, "We really want to encourage a younger demographic to focus on the road while driving, especially in the work zone."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, the age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group. 16 percent of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving (distraction.gov).

In an effort to reach out to students with a variety of strengths, students may submit their application in one of six different formats. Applications will be handled through the students' schools. As part of the application, students will also answer three short answer questions about work zone safety.

Students may begin applying for the work zone safety scholarships this fall, and all scholarship applications must be turned in by April 20, 2012. Scholarship applications will be judged by a panel that will include elected officials, community business leaders, local personalities and DFW Connector project representatives. The DFW Connector project will award the scholarships in spring 2012.

The \$1.02 billion DFW Connector project is being built under a comprehensive development agreement (CDA) between TxDOT and NorthGate Constructors allowing for NorthGate to design and build the project simultaneously, shortening the time needed to deliver the project. Information on the DFW Connector Project is available online at www.dfwconnector.com or the Info Hotline at 877-411-4212.

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