

March 12, 2013

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NDDOT brings safe driving presentations to Hazelton Moffit Braddock

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) sponsored a safe driving presentation featuring national speaker, Tyler Presnell of Washington. At the age of 14, Presnell was involved in a car crash that has left him with a permanent brain injury that affected his short-term memory. Presnell, who shared his story at Hazelton Moffit Braddock High School Tuesday, March 12, travels the country speaking to students about the importance of traffic safety and making positive choices involving motor vehicles.

“Safety is a top priority at the NDDOT,” said Mark Nelson, NDDOT Safety Division Director. Tyler’s story is really powerful and will hopefully get teens to make smart decisions when it comes to getting in a motor vehicle as a driver as well as a passenger.”

In North Dakota, teen drivers account for fewer than 7 percent of all licensed drivers, but are involved in more than 20 percent of all motor vehicle crashes and nearly 15 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities.

“Motor vehicle crashes are the leading preventable cause of death among 15 to 19 year olds in North Dakota,” said Matthew Schaerbenske, Hazelton Moffit Braddock Superintendent. “This is why it was important to bring this traffic safety presentation here today – to protect the future of our students.”

The NDDOT has provided resources to develop a new safety program centered on teens, called “Think About It.” The “Think About It” slogan and associated activity was developed by a youth committee consisting of four students from Bismarck High School and Century High School. The committee decided on the “Think About It” slogan to urge teens to think about their actions rather than simply telling them what, or what not, to do. The goal of the initiative is to decrease the number of crashes and fatalities involving teens on North Dakota roadways.

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