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NDDOT brings safe driving presentations to Fargo/West Fargo area

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 Sheyenne 9th Grade Center, West Fargo High School and Oak Grove High School Monday, March 11, 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.

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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