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## Randolph Telephone & Shattuck - Lawver Agency, Nationwide Insurance announces \$500 Technology Grant Winner from its “One Text or Call Could Wreck it All” Campaign

In an effort to make our roads safer, Randolph Telephone, Shattuck- Lawver Agency, Nationwide Insurance and 107.5 KZL joined the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “One Text or Call Could Wreck It All” campaign this fall to stop distracted driving. Chatham Central High School, Bear Creek was the recipient of the \$500 Technology Grant.

Students from each school took part in a school-wide assembly to learn about the dangers of texting and driving. They were encouraged to sign a pledge to not text and drive. The school with the highest percentage of students to take the pledge won the grant.

Randolph Telephone and Nationwide Insurance launched this campaign to area high schools. The schools that participated were—Asheboro High School, Chatham Central High School, Eastern Randolph High School and Jordan Matthews High School. The campaign was intended to educate high school students about the dangers of cell phone use and other distractions while driving.



(left to right) Melissa Cox of RTMC, Katie & Jared of 107.5, Seth Tillman, Ashley Morris, Allissa Roberts students of Chatham Central.

Principal Mitchell Stensland of Chatham Central High School commented, “I cannot thank Randolph Telephone, Nationwide Insurance and 107.5 KZL enough for bringing the Don’t Text and Drive message to our school. The assembly was focused, meaningful, and reached our teenage drivers. Having the highest percentage of students who pledged not to text and drive is a testament to the power of this program.”

“Our goal for this campaign was simple—to save lives by getting drivers to remember that “One Text or Call Could Wreck It All,” stated Melissa Cox, Randolph Telephone Marketing Representative. “Every driver in our local communities has a role, however, we especially wanted to reach out to the youth in our areas and get them to realize how important it is to drive safe.”

While anything that takes your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, or mind off the task of driving is a hazard, there is heightened concern about the risks of texting while driving because it combines all three types of distraction – visual, manual and cognitive.

The national distracted driving effort focuses on ways to change the behavior of drivers through legislation, enforcement, public awareness and education – the same activities that have curbed drunk driving and increased seat belt use.

“Distracted driving is an epidemic on America’s roadways, and we’re doing our part to help put an end to it,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. “Texting and cell phone use while driving is extremely dangerous, and we know simply getting drivers to turn their phones off when they get behind the wheel will make our roads significantly safer. Efforts like this one will help us put an end to distracted driving, and we encourage your support of this program to help save lives in your community.”

For more information about distracted driving, please visit [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov), or you can contact