



NEWS

100 Erie Insurance Place • Erie, PA 16530 • (814) 870-2000 • Toll Free 1-800-458-0811

CONTACT: Amy VanScoter, Corporate Communications
1-800-458-0811 ext. 7568, 814/870-7568
amy.vanscoter@erieinsurance.com

Erie Insurance and West Forsyth High School Lookin' Out for Teen Drivers

(Erie, PA) January 4, 2007 – West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, North Carolina recently received a grant from Erie Insurance to help spread the word about safe teen driving through the company's Lookin' Out program. Erie Insurance Agent Roy Whitley III of the Whitley-Reavis Insurance Agency is partnering with West Forsyth High School to implement the program in the school. To engage all students, the West Forsyth Lookin' Out committee has planned a number of activities to promote safe driving throughout the school year. The program and activities will be funded through this grant.

"Despite accounting for only 7 percent of the driving population in the United States, teen drivers are involved in 20 percent of all reported accidents," said Erie Insurance Agent Roy Whitley. "Driving is like any other skill – it requires education, mentoring, practice and life experience to reach proficiency."

Lookin' Out has been managed successfully in high schools since 2001 and has awarded more than \$140,000 in grants throughout the years to educate teen drivers. More than 17,000 high school juniors and seniors from 43 schools across Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia participated in the program last year alone. And, Lookin' Out continues to add new participating schools each year. West Forsyth is the first school in North Carolina to receive a Lookin' Out grant.

Lookin' Out schools operate their program through a student-based committee, co-chaired by an ERIE Agent and a school faculty advisor. Each school tailors the program to address what the students feel are the most pressing teen driving issues at their school. Lookin' Out promotes safe driving habits by educating teens about risk factors such as: lack of seatbelt use; speeding or other reckless driving behavior; alcohol or drug use; number of passengers in a car; and distractions such as loud music and cell phones.

"The Lookin' Out program is really making a difference in the schools," Whitley added. "The students on the Lookin' Out committee understand their role to convey messages their peers will embrace. They creatively design multi-faceted programs for their fellow students and are to be congratulated for their concern and efforts."

According to A.M. Best Company, Erie Insurance Group, based in Erie, Pennsylvania, is the 14th largest automobile insurer in the United States based on direct premiums written and the 22nd largest property/casualty insurer in the United States based on total lines net premium written. The Group, rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company, has almost 3.8 million policies in force and operates in 11 states and the District of Columbia. Erie Insurance Group ranked 421 on the FORTUNE 500 and Erie Indemnity Company is included in Forbes Magazine's PLATINUM 400 list of the best-managed companies in America. For more information visit the company's web site at www.erieinsurance.com.