



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2005

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North Texans Recognized for Excellence in Improving Air Quality

North Texas Clean Air Coalition rewards employers, individuals for cutting pollution, traffic congestion

(DALLAS-FORT WORTH) – The North Texas Clean Air Coalition (NTCAC) held its annual awards luncheons on Oct. 19 and 20, recognizing regional employers who contribute to improving air quality. The NTCAC distributed awards to more than 20 employers, representing nearly 50,000 employees in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

“These awards represent a sincere dedication to the reduction of air pollution and traffic congestion in North Texas,” said Brian Boerner, Chairman of the North Texas Clean Air Coalition. “Every participant deserves our thanks for taking the lead in supporting alternatives to the daily work commute.”

Texas Instruments and North Texas Health Care Laundry Cooperative Association were honored as Dallas area 2005 Employers of the Year, in the large and small employer categories. The City of Fort Worth and Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce were named 2005 Employers of the Year in the Fort Worth area.

Lockheed Martin employee Kathy Luper won the award for the 2005 Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) of the Year in Fort Worth. Ms. Luper has coordinated commuting and flexible scheduling programs for Lockheed’s employees for more than 10 years. Lynn Dunning of North Texas Health Care Laundry Cooperative Association (NTHCLCA) was named 2005 Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) of the Year in Dallas. Mr. Dunning was instrumental in offering Gold DART transit passes to all NTHCLCA employees.

The Clean Air Partners Awards recognize employers for encouraging their employees to make cleaner and smarter daily commutes to work. This year’s winners from the Dallas area were Baylor University Medical Center, City of Plano, Fannie Mae, Glasfloss Industries, Greyhound Lines Inc., Radiologix Inc., Rockwall Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Department of Transportation – Dallas District.

Fort Worth-area winners were City of North Richland Hills, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Fort Worth Economic Development Corporation, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Office Depot, Project Partners – Consulting and Project Management, Texas Christian University, Texas Department of Transportation – Fort Worth District, Texas Health Resources, U.S. General Service Administration and Witherspoon & Associates.

The NTCAC also recognizes successful vanpool programs. State Farm Insurance won the 2005 Vanpool Employer of the Year Award for the Dallas area. Vought Aircraft in Grand Prairie won the Fort Worth area vanpool award. The 2005 Van-tastic Vanpool of the Year Award went to L-3 Communication's Van Group 23009.

The Commuter Challenge encourages commuters to avoid driving alone to work or lunch. Bell Helicopter, Motheral Printing and Texas Instruments all received Top-Ranked Commuter Challenge Employer of 2005 Awards.

The NTCAC also announced its 2005 North Texas Best Workplaces for Commuters List at the luncheons: Bell Helicopter, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas, Blockbuster, City of Dallas, Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, Lena Pope Home, Murray Brown, North Texas Health Care Laundry Cooperative Association, the Northeast Tarrant County Chamber of Commerce, TXU, U.S. Department of Energy and the University of North Texas.

This year Texas Instruments was among the Top 20 employers nationwide on the EPA's **Best Workplaces for Commuters**SM List among FORTUNE 500 Companies. Texas Instruments also qualified for the 2004 inaugural North Texas' **Best Workplaces for Commuters**SM List.

To be recognized as one of the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM employers must provide a variety of commuter-related incentives to employees.

About North Texas' Best Workplace for CommutersSM

The North Texas' **Best Workplaces for Commuters**SM program is free and voluntary. The program creates a win-win situation for North Texans, because employees benefit from less expensive and less stressful commutes and communities enjoy reduced traffic congestion and cleaner air. For the complete North Texas' **Best Workplaces for Commuters**SM List and for information on how to apply, visit www.northtexasair.org

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The NTCAC was formed in 1993 to educate North Texans about air quality and encourage individuals to "do their share for cleaner air." Members of the NTCAC include the North Central Texas Council of Governments, North Texas Commission, Greater Dallas Chamber, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T), the Denton County Transportation Authority, and numerous individuals and businesses.