

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## North Houston Association's Annual Awards Recipients Announced

Houston, Texas (May 10, 2011) The North Houston Association (NHA) is pleased to announce the NHA awards recipients who will be recognized at the Annual Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 (visit [www.north-houston.com](http://www.north-houston.com) for luncheon details). **Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Rice University**, will be the keynote speaker at this event.

The **North Star Award** is presented to an individual(s) or entity in north Houston that has made a long-term, significant contribution to the region. This year's recipient is **Nelda Luce Blair** (The Blair Firm), The Woodlands Township. For three years ending in mid-2010, Nelda Luce Blair's strategic leadership skills led The Woodlands Township in one of the most historic occasions of community governance ever seen in the State of Texas and possibly the nation. Mrs. Blair led The Woodlands Township, an organization created in 2007, into a regional partnership with the City of Houston and City of Conroe that ultimately will allow residents of The Woodlands to determine their future form of governance in 2014. To get to this key point in time, a major transition in governance needed to take place, and Mrs. Blair led this process, known as the "Transition," as the Chairman of the Board, all in a 100 percent volunteer capacity. She spent hundreds, if not thousands, of hours and strategic visionary leadership to get the community where it needed to be.

The **Compass Award** is bestowed on an individual who is a member of the North Houston Association, and has made a significant contribution to the area and to the programs and projects of the Association. This year's award will be given to **Neil Thomas, Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP**. Mr. Thomas was selected for the Compass Award because of his contributions to the creation of the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition (GBCC). Mr. Thomas dedicated significant time to preparing the documents and managing the process of creating the organization, preparing articles of incorporation and bylaws, securing IRS 501(C)3 status, and

serving as a member of the Steering Committee. His service to the Coalition continues as a member of the Advisory Council. Mr. Thomas' contributions will be realized for years to come by the people of the north Houston region. Additionally, Mr. Thomas has served on the NHA Board of Directors since 2005 for seven years as representative for Fulbright & Jaworski.

The **Environmental Impact Award** recognizes a company or entity for its efforts in preserving and protecting the environment in north Harris or south Montgomery County. The Environmental Impact Award is presented to the **Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition**. Accepting the award will be Bill Franks, Oxberry Group, and the GBCC Chairman of the Board, along with Joe Wozny, METRO, and the Coalition Founder. In its short life, the Coalition has already made a significant impact on north Houston and the entire 45-mile watershed. The organization has raised more than \$2.5 million in grants and in-kind donations. This mix of money and in-kind services is used to fund trails, build parks, plant trees, weed out invasive species, create infrastructure and restore and protect habitats. Last year, the National Park Service approved a grant application to provide technical services that will result in a master plan for the entire Greens Bayou corridor.

The North Houston Association is a non-profit organization that identifies, advocates and supports projects and initiatives which advance the business environment and improve the quality of life in north Harris and south Montgomery counties. See [www.north-houston.com](http://www.north-houston.com) and Facebook.

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