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## First Tee of the Triangle Announces Triangle Golf Complex Land Purchase

First Tee of the Triangle is starting off 2020 in a big way. After years of hard work and determination, they are now the proud owners of Triangle Golf Complex located at 12201 Leesville Road in northwest Raleigh. The purchase and land development is made possible and supported by TowneBank, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, McConnell Golf, Mills Construction, Coastal Credit Union, Peter Millar, and world renowned golf course architect Gil Hanse.

Gil Hanse says, "I am honored to partner with First Tee of the Triangle on this one of a kind project. When I was approached by them about Hanse Course Design supporting the organization in this way, it was an easy decision to make. While we are fortunate to work on a variety of different projects, this was a unique opportunity to put those skills to work helping to lift up an entire community. I am looking forward to seeing kids and their families benefit from this project for generations to come."

With the help of their generous sponsors and countless others, First Tee of the Triangle has plans to create the *First Tee of the Triangle Center for Youth Development*. The existing property will undergo renovations and the new design will include a nine-hole Par-3 course, a driving range, and associated practice areas. Additionally, the site will include a learning center with integrated classroom spaces for participants and serve as the organization's headquarters. President/CEO of First Tee of the Triangle, Brandon Baker says, "The one thing that we've lacked from day one is a place that our kids and families can call our own. Having our own facility to call home will be very important for our kids and for the community. Thank you to our supporters for allowing us to expand on our vision and make this project a reality."

John McConnell, President/CEO of McConnell Golf states, "Obviously, I have an affinity and love for golf. A lot of these kids coming out of First Tee get life skills they might not get elsewhere, helping them to be more successful in life. Golf becomes a fundamental part of that and hopefully these kids one day will join somewhere else."

First Tee of the Triangle is a youth development organization that impacts the lives of local youth by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. 1,637 kids were served in 2019 and over 12,000 kids have been served since the organization's inception in 2004. In addition to the numerous partner locations the organization currently operates from, this new home facility is expected to serve an additional 800 students annually when at capacity.