



FOUR DRIVER ED TEACHERS GET TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY FOUNDATION AND ADTSEA

Outstanding teachers from Michigan, Hawaii, Vermont and Washington get recognition at national driver ed teachers' conference

NEW YORK, July 17, 2012 -- Four driver education teachers have been selected to receive recognition for teaching excellence at the annual national conference of the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA), on July 17 in Appleton, WI. The Teacher Excellence Awards are given each year, with a stipend, by The National Road Safety Foundation, a non-profit group that creates driver safety education materials and makes them available at no cost to teachers and schools, police, and traffic safety and youth advocacy groups.

Chosen by their peers to receive the 2012 Teacher Excellence Award are Rachel E. Wilson of Auburn Hills, MI, Gerald F. Apple of Olympia, WA, Kevin M. Masse of New Haven, VT and Richard Salboro of Ewa Beach, HI.

"Driving instructors are a dedicated group who truly care about saving lives and preventing needless tragedy by helping people learn how to drive safely," said David Reich of the National Road Safety Foundation, which presents the annual Teacher Excellence Awards. "The winners we are honoring are truly the best of the best."

TEA winner Rachel Wilson has taught driver education in Michigan for six years and is currently the lead driver education instructor for AAA Michigan in Shelby Township, Michigan, where she develops new learning tools for students. She was named driver education teacher of the year by the Michigan chapter of ADTSEA. Wilson, who has her Bachelor's degree from Oakland University in Rochester, MI says she became involved in traffic safety as a way to share her love of education in a way that promotes youth safety.

Gerald Apple has been teaching traffic safety education for 40 years and currently teaches at Shelton High School, Shelton, WA. He also works at Educational Service District 113 in Turnwater, WA, where he trains teachers and is a distance-learning traffic safety education instructor. TEA winner Apple holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Western Washington University and has also taught English and history in Washington schools. He serves on the Board of ADTSEAA, is chair of the secondary division and is liaison to ADTSEA's youth arm, the National Student Safety Program. He has been active developing initiatives for both younger and older drivers.

Kevin Masse has been teaching driver and traffic safety education for 15 years at Mount Abraham Union Middle/Senior High School in New Haven, VT. He also teaches journalism, and has taught academic subjects at Job Corps centers in Vermont and New York. He also coaches sports at different age levels. Masse, who has a Bachelor's from Castleton State College and a Master's from Southern New Hampshire University, has testified before government and other groups assessing driver education and youth traffic safety education. The TEA winner says he was motivated to become involved in traffic safety education "by a series of events that have been confirmed by the relationships with his students and their success."

Richard Salboro teaches and coordinates driver education at Waianae and Nankuli High Schools on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. He is also a cadre instructor for the Hawaii Department of Education's driver education program. He has been teaching driver education for six years. The TEA winner has been a technology trainer and workshop presenter for driver ed teachers at state and national programs, and he has been a leader in implementing electronic assessment of behind-the-wheel driver education and technology. He has a Bachelor's from Concordia University, Irvine, CA.

The American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) is the professional association which represents traffic safety educators throughout the United States and abroad. As a national advocate for quality traffic safety education, ADTSEA creates and publishes policies and guidelines for the discipline and conducts conferences, workshops and seminars and develops educational materials. ADTSEA has more than 1,000 professional and corporate members.

For 50 years, The National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF) has advocated for safer roads through driver education. NRSF has free driver safety programs on speed and aggression, drinking and driving, drowsy driving and driver proficiency. Its newest programs, "Generation tXt" and "Stay in the Picture," address distracted driving and summer driving safety aimed at young people. For more information, visit www.nrsf.org.

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