

## New from NRSF: Road Buzzed

After decades of efforts to curb drunk driving, impairment is still the biggest cause of traffic deaths and injuries. Impaired driving causes a death in the U.S. every 48 minutes, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Traffic safety officials have broadened the scope of impairment, to recognize other things that can weaken a person’s ability to drive safely – illegal drugs, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and even drowsiness.

The National Road Safety Foundation introduces its newest program -- Road Buzzed. Aimed at teens, it is based around a 7-1/2 minute video produced in a fast-paced newscast format. For teaching purposes, the video can be shown in four segments that cover what impairment is, alcohol myths and facts, alcohol poisoning, and dealing with peer pressure and getting out of a dangerous situation where a driver may be impaired.

“Too often, young people are afraid to speak up if they feel they



may be in a dangerous situation with a friend who is driving while impaired,” said Michelle Anderson, NRSF Director of Operations. “They don’t want to be seen as a wimp by their peers, but speaking up and taking action could make the difference between life and death. It’s that simple.”

Portions of the film were done with help from SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) students, who acted in simulated party and driving scenes.

Road Buzzed can be downloaded free at [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org) or [www.teenlane.org](http://www.teenlane.org).

## NRSF and Scholastic Launch 5th Annual Drive2Life PSA Contest

For four years, the Drive2Life PSA Contest has helped give teens a voice in the ongoing fight to make our roads and highways safer. The number of entries has grown, from nearly 100 in Year 1 to more than 1,300 last year.

We’re teaming up again with Scholastic for Drive2Life, which launches this fall. Young people in Grades 6 – 12 are invited to submit their ideas for a public service message that discusses the dangers of impaired driving and encourages teens

to speak up if they feel they are in a dangerous driving situation.

The winner gets a \$1,000 prize and a trip to New York City to work with an Emmy-winning TV producer to make the winning concept into a professionally-produced TV spot that will air nationwide.

We’re looking for the next great idea. If you think you have it, click the Drive2Life link on our website or visit [www.drive2life.org/entryform](http://www.drive2life.org/entryform) for entry



information. Deadline for entries is Feb. 12, 2014 and the winner will be announced in May, which is Global Youth Traffic Safety Month.

# NRSF Helps SADD Students Speak Out



*SADD students and leaders at the first SADD SPEAKS event in Washington, D.C.*

NRSF is pleased to be a sponsor of the first SADD SPEAKS (Students for Policy, Education, Advocacy and Knowledge) last summer in Washington, DC. The goal of the program was to equip, train, and empower a group of 22 teen leaders from 16 states in advocacy, leadership, and the public policy process around traffic safety. They met with Congressional staff and leaders involved with traffic safety, as well as staff at NHTSA and other federal agencies responsible for federal policy related to teen traffic safety. They held a briefing on Capitol Hill for elected leaders and congressional staff.

“Giving young people the knowledge and skills to affect public law and policy are powerful tools, and SADD students are wonderful candidates to direct their passion for traffic safety issues to the national stage,” said Penny Wells, SADD National President and CEO. “Their intelligence and perspective will advance the national debate around effective ways to promote teen traffic safety.”

The teen advocates will put their new skills into practice by working to influence state and federal policy at the local level. They will also lead SADD’s efforts to mobilize students across the country to become effective advocates for teen traffic safety programs. NRSF is happy to play a supporting role in this important and ongoing effort.

# NRSF Honors “Innovative” School Resource Officer

Young people learn about good driving behavior in many ways, including from parents and driver ed teachers. Another source of safe driving behavior comes from school resource officers (SROs) – police officers assigned to teach and mentor in our schools.

NRSF values the important role played by SROs. That’s why we’ve been teaming for the past few years with NASRO, the National Association of School Resource Officers, to recognize innovative teaching of traffic safety in school by a school resource officer.

Officer Charles “Chip” Dapolite of the Westborough, Mass. Police Department won the 2013 NASRO/NRSF “Innovation in the Classroom Award.” The award, a \$1,000

honorarium for the police department and Westborough High School, where Officer Dapolite teaches, was presented at the NASRO national meeting in Orlando this summer.

Every year since becoming an SRO five years ago, Officer Dapolite has created a crash simulation for 11th and 12th graders just before prom and graduation season. Students and others play various roles and the local fire department provides emergency equipment and their Life Flight helicopter. Last year, he extended his efforts to younger students, getting 5th and 6th graders involved in a national safe driving awareness competition.

“I look at my role as a dynamic educator on safe driving,” he said. “I start with students

# The New TEEN LANE Has Launched!

The National Road Safety Foundation is proud to announce the launch of its newly revised TEEN LANE website. TEEN LANE ([www.teenlane.org](http://www.teenlane.org)) has everything teens (and their younger siblings) need to know about road safety. Programs such as Generation tXt (distraction), Stay in the Picture (prom & summer driving safety), and Road Buzzed (impaired driving) are offered FREE of charge.

TEEN LANE also has information on contests inviting teens to send ideas for TV public service announcements, as well as ideas for radio ads on distracted driving. Contests offer cash and travel prizes, and the winning ads will be broadcast nationwide.

TEEN LANE also has a section for tweens and pre-tweens, with programs on pedestrian, bicycle safety and animated safe driving films. Visit us today!



*NRSF/NASRO Innovation in the Classroom Award-winner Officer Charles Dapolite, with Michelle Anderson of NRSF*

before they drive so my lessons will demonstrate and reinforce good driving behavior that will make them better drivers once they begin driving.”

We salute Officer Dapolite and thank him for his efforts.

# NRSF Honors Two Top Driver Ed Teachers



Teacher Excellence Award winners Mark Hamilton and Christine Bergan, center, with ADTSEA TEA Award Chair Lindsay Townsend, left, and NRSF's David Reich, right.

Two driver education teachers were recognized for teaching excellence at the national conference of the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) in Portland, Maine last summer.

Chosen by their peers to receive the 2013 Teacher Excellence Award, sponsored by NRSF, were Christine Bergan of Madison, Wisc., and Mark Hamilton, who teaches in White River Junction, Vermont.

Christine Bergan has been teaching driver education for more than seven years at AAA Driver Training in Madison, Wisc. Since she had experience in special education at the K-12 and university levels before joining the

AAA, she has assisted and trained other AAA instructors throughout Wisconsin and nine other states in working with special needs students. She is currently the AAA Driver Training Supervisor for Eastern Wisconsin.

Mark Hamilton has been teaching driver education for 21 years at Hartford High School in White River Junction, Vermont. He has been an innovator in the use of technology to engage his students, and he has incorporated writing skills and critical thinking into the driver ed curriculum, which he feels helps prepare young people for real-life driving situations. He has also been an active promoter of traffic safety in the school community and beyond, partnering with local businesses to create radio and TV public service announcements. He holds a Parents' Night every year to increase parental involvement in driver ed and safe driving.

"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. "These winners are truly the best of the best."

## NRSF Works with SADD for Safer Roads

The National Road Safety Foundation is expanding its relationship with one of the leading student advocacy groups, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).

We are entering our second year in partnership with SADD for the "Driving Skills 101" contest, which invites SADD chapters nationwide to create safe driving outreach campaigns in their schools and into their local communities. The winning chapter will receive a \$2,500 prize. The second place chapter will win \$1,500, and the third place chapter will get \$500. For contest info, go to #DrivingSkills101@UrTurn Contest.



NRSF will again host the SADD Student Leadership Committee in New York City in the fall, where the SADD leaders will plan and prepare for this year's contest, even as they look ahead toward teen driving safety programs for the 2014/2015 school year.

# NRSF EVENTS

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Look for us at these events in the fall.

## OCTOBER

10/24 - 10/27 **SADD Student Leadership Committee**  
Students Against Destructive Decisions  
Hosted in New York City by NRSF

## NOVEMBER

11/15 - 11/16 **N.Y. State PTA Statewide Conference**  
Saratoga Springs, NY

11/18 - 11/19 **NOYS Annual Meeting** Alexandria, VA  
National Organizations for Youth Safety



Our 2014 Conference Schedule will be published in our Spring issue of Road Buzz and/or check [www.nrsf.org/teenlane/events](http://www.nrsf.org/teenlane/events) for new events and our schedule.

*The National Road Safety Foundation, a non-profit organization founded more than 50 years ago, produces traffic safety programs on impaired driving, speed and aggressive driving, drowsy and distracted driving, and a host of other traffic safety issues. It distributes the programs, free of charge, to schools, police and traffic safety advocates, community groups and individuals. For more information and to download our free programs, visit [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org) or [www.teenlane.org](http://www.teenlane.org).*



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