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FARGO, ND POLICE OFFICER WINS NATIONAL "INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM" AWARD

Honored by peers at national police conference

NEW YORK, July 17, 2012 -- Officer Rachel Jordan of the Fargo, North Dakota Police Department has been named the winner of the 2012 NASRO/National Road Safety Foundation "Innovation in the Classroom Award." The award, which was presented at the national meeting of NASRO (National Association of School Resource Officers) in Reno, Nev. on July 16, recognizes innovative teaching of traffic safety in schools by a school resource officer (SRO). It carries with it a \$1,000 honorarium for the police department and Carl Ben Eielson Middle School, where she teaches.

In her five years as an SRO, Officer Jordan has worked to engage young people with a fun and fast-paced curriculum that gets students outside of the traditional classroom environment. Her winning program, "Math in Action: Speeders Beware," ties into the 8th grade math curriculum and graphically demonstrates the importance of obeying posted speed limits.

After the students learn the relevant math in class, they receive a series of worksheets. They then meet with Officer Jordan at a busy street that is next to the school and they see demonstrations that show the stopping distance of a car at various speeds.

"I have found that many students, including many new drivers, simply don't realize how long it takes to stop a car," she said. "They often don't believe me until they see it for themselves, and they are astounded."

Officer Jordan shows her class how a radar gun works. Each student uses the gun and "catch" speeders. A beat officer makes traffic stops based on the speeds the students get, and they later calculate mean and median speeds and learn to plot charts that display the data they've collected. Class discussions include why some times of day have faster speeds than others and the importance of having a proper following distance between cars.

The mother of four says she thoroughly enjoys her work as an SRO. She was honored with the NASRO/National Road Safety Foundation "Innovation in the Classroom Award" at the NASRO national conference, where some 800 police officers and school administrators convened. She gave a presentation of her winning lesson plan to fellow school resource officers.

For 50 years, The National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF), a non-profit organization, has created driver education programs for free distribution to schools, police, traffic safety agencies, youth advocacy groups and others. NRSF has programs on speed and aggression, drinking and driving, and drowsy driving. Its newest programs, "Generation tXt" and "Stay in the Picture", address distracted driving and prom and summer driving safety aimed at young people. For more information, visit www.nrsf.org.

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