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## **OKLAHOMA POLICE OFFICER WINS NATIONAL "INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM" AWARD**

**Honored by peers at school resources officers national conference**

**NEW YORK, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Sgt. Terry Tilley of the Midwest City (Oklahoma) Police Department has been named the winner of the 2014 NASRO/National Road Safety Foundation "Innovation in the Classroom Award." The award, which will be presented at the annual conference of the National Association of School Resource Officers in Palm Springs, CA on July 14, 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 Midwest City High School, where he teaches.**

**For 15 years, Sgt. Tilley has been working with students at Midwest City High School, however he was not a full-time school resource officer until last year when the school district and the police department cooperated to find funding to make his position in the school a full-time assignment. For twelve years, he has brought the dangers of bad driving behavior to life for students, with a "mock wreck" staged in April, timed to coincide with the school's graduation and prom season.**

**The day begins with an assembly where students hear from two local people who tell their personal stories of an impaired driving crash that included, for one, a jail sentence. The students then go outside, where they see the remains of a crash. They see the fire department use the jaws of life to get an injured passenger out of the crumpled car. They see two victims taken to the local hospital by ambulance as a medivac helicopter lands and transports another victim to a trauma center. The students then return to the auditorium to participate in a funeral for a crash victim who was killed.**

**Sgt. Tilley uses student volunteers to play the victims, while the police and fire departments, area EMS crews and a local funeral home help with people and equipment to make the entire day seem authentic. "It's a real eye-opener for the students," Sgt. Tilley said. "The whole experience gets them to think more carefully when they get into a car, especially regarding decisions about drinking, texting and other dangerous behavior while driving."**

**"The program has had a real impact on students and community members in general," said Chris Reynolds, Principal of MidwestCity High School. "Without Sgt. Tilley's willingness to create and direct this program, I shudder to think what the consequences could be for the Mid-Del community." "Sgt. Tilley has always had an interest in education and safety of the kids in the community," said Lt. Roger Ross, the SRO supervisor at the Midwest City Police Department. "His determination and compassion for the community has made a difference."**

**For more than 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, "Road Buzzed: A Look at Impaired Driving," "Generation tXI" and "Stay in the Picture", address impaired and distracted driving and prom and summer driving safety aimed at young people. NRSF also sponsors contests for teens in partnership with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Scholastic. To view free programs and for more information, visit [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org) or [www.teenlane.org](http://www.teenlane.org)**