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## **TENNESSEE DEPUTY SHERIFF RECEIVES NATIONAL "INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM" AWARD**

**Chad Dodson of Rutherford County Sheriff's Office to be honored by peers  
at national conference of school resource officers**

HOOVER, AL, June \_\_, 2024 – Deputy Sheriff Chad Dodson, who serves as a school resource officer in Tennessee's Rutherford County has been named the recipient of the 2024 "Innovation in the Classroom Award." The award is presented by The National Road Safety Foundation and NASRO, the National Association of School Resource Officers. Deputy Dodson was selected by a panel of his peers in NASRO and will receive the award July 15 at the annual NASRO Conference in Phoenix.

The award, which recognizes innovative teaching of traffic safety in schools by a police officer, carries with it full conference registration and an expenses-paid trip to the NASRO Conference.

Deputy Dodson, who has been in law enforcement for 26 years, has been a school resource officer for 15 years. In 2014, he started a teen defensive driving program called DRIVE – Defense Response Improving Vehicle Education. The two-day program, which includes online and hands-on components, is available for students from the County's 51 schools as well as home schooled students. It is presented several times throughout the year and covers topics including driver responsibilities, aggressive driving, distracted driving, the effects of speed, following distance, intersection safety, fatigued driving, alcohol laws and effect of alcohol on driving, severe weather driving and more.

A companion program for parents was added two years ago.

Mo Canady, Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, said, "Deputy Dodson has developed an effective program that has helped thousands of teens in his county become safe drivers."

“We are pleased to recognize Deputy Dodson’s efforts that continue to have a positive impact on the safety of our young people on the road,” said Michelle Anderson, Director of Operations at The National Road Safety Foundation.

**NASRO**, the world’s leader in school-based policing, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 for school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators and school security and/or safety professionals who work as partners to protect schools and their students, faculty and staff members.

NASRO developed the “triad” concept of school-based policing, which divides SRO responsibilities into three areas: educator, informal counselor/mentor and law enforcement officer. By training law enforcement officers to educate, counsel and protect school communities, the more than 3,000 men and women of NASRO continuously lead by example and promote a positive image of law enforcement to school children and school communities. For more information, go to [www.nasro.org](http://www.nasro.org)

**The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF)** is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that for more than 60 years has been dedicated to reducing crashes, deaths and injuries on our nation’s highways by promoting safe driving habits through greater public awareness.

NRSF resources, which are free, deal with distracted driving, speed and aggression, impaired driving, drowsy driving, driver proficiency and pedestrian safety. The Foundation also works with youth advocacy groups and sponsors contests to engage teens in promoting safe driving to their peers and in their communities. For more information or to download free programs, visit [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org).