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

### **Sgt. Tom Sloan to be honored by peers at national conference of school resource officers**

NEW YORK, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Sergeant Tom Sloan, who works with students at Round Rock High School in Round Rock, Tex., has been named the recipient of the 2018 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 (NASRO) in Reno, NV on June 28, which recognizes innovative teaching of traffic safety in schools by a police officer. It carries with it full conference registration and an all-expenses-paid trip to the NASRO Conference along with a \$1,000 honorarium to be used for traffic safety education by the honoree's police department.

Sgt. Sloan, who has been with the Round Rock Police Department for ten years, uses his background in journalism to educate and engage students and the broader community about traffic safety issues. While in high school, he worked as an on-air personality on a radio station in Coleman, TX., and eventually became station manager. While in the Marines, which he joined following the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, his combat reporting during Operation Iraqi Freedom appeared in major newspapers including USA Today and the Los Angeles Times.

Sgt. Sloan, as an SRO, is part of the Police Department's Traffic Unit, where, he notes, most officers educate via issuing citations, which is an adversarial experience. He wanted to use a positive approach that could reach a large audience, so he developed a series of bi-weekly videos disseminated via social media. His "Tom's Traffic Tips" have become popular with young people and adults alike, averaging 5,400 views per episode through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

"This idea can be used in schools, especially those with video production capabilities," Sgt. Sloan noted. "But traffic safety videos can even be made with a cell phone, and they can become an engaging class project for students in criminal justice classes, or computer science or photography classes and clubs."

"Sgt. Sloan's development of a creative program has had a considerable impact on improving the safety of the schools and educating young people about traffic safety," said Sgt. Marc Gray, the School Resource Officer Supervisor at the Round Rock Police Department.

Mo Canady, Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, said, "Sgt. Sloan, our 2018 Innovation in the Classroom honoree, shows how life experience can spark creative ways to educate young people about important traffic safety issues."

"We are pleased to recognize the innovative thinking of Sgt. Sloan, whose work is having a positive impact on young people," said Michelle Anderson, Director of Operations at The National Road Safety Foundation.

For more than 55 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. The organization has supported NASRO's Innovation in the Classroom program for nine years. NRSF also sponsors national contests for teens in partnership with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Scholastic, and regionally with auto shows in Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. To view free programs and for more information, visit [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org) or [www.teenlane.org](http://www.teenlane.org).

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