



MINNESOTA TOWARD **ZERO** DEATHS
ANNUAL AWARDS
2021

minnesotatzd.org/events/webinarseries/2021

Offered by:

The Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Program and the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, and Health with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

TZD Star Awards

The Toward Zero Deaths Star Awards are given to recognize excellence in child passenger safety, education, emergency medical and trauma services, enforcement, engineering, and the judicial/court system. Award recipients have demonstrated exceptional creativity, leadership, and organizational skills and the ability to successfully collaborate with and motivate others in efforts to move toward zero deaths on Minnesota roads.



Child Passenger Safety TZD Star Award

Bridget Nez

This award is given to Bridget Nez in recognition of her efforts to provide car seats and CPS education for the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Southwest Minnesota. This community has a high need for car seats as well as for CPS technicians. As a family advocate for the Lower Sioux Early Head Start, Bridget has been a strong advocate for growth in these areas, working with families in need to get them car seats and collaborating with local agencies to train technicians. She has also been essential in ensuring families feel comfortable asking for services.

Recent recipients: Tracy Brown (2020), Cameron Gustafson (2019), Karri Hendrickson (2018), Julie Philbrook (2017), Laura Owen (2016)



Education TZD Star Award

Crystal Hoepner

This award is given to Crystal Hoepner in recognition of her creativity and expertise in implementing traffic safety efforts as the Grant County TZD Safe Roads Coalition Coordinator. Crystal, a health educator with Horizon Public Health, uses social media messaging to educate drivers and organizes many events at local schools, health fairs, and other public venues. One highly successful event was a "Rural Safety Day" at the 2019 Grant County Fair, which addressed such topics as agriculture equipment, bicycle, and seat

belt safety for a wide-ranging audience. Crystal was instrumental in organizing the many presenters, and upon her recommendation, the event will be held annually.

Recent recipients: Stephanie Felt (2020), Allison Nicolson (2019), Lt. Jeff Strom (2018), Vijay B. Dixit (2017), Officer Adam Gau (2016)



Emergency Medical & Trauma Services TZD Star Award

Tim Cook

This award is given to Tim Cook in recognition of his traffic safety efforts with the Pennington County Safe Roads Coalition. As a lead paramedic for Sanford Ambulance in Thief River Falls, Tim is the first to jump in and represent EMS/trauma at any traffic safety event, contributing to the conversation and offering innovative ideas. Tim has participated in several enforcement ride-alongs to better understand traffic safety and contributes to the Teen TZD program, conference, and events. He is also community-minded and always willing to support TZD in every aspect.

Recent recipients: Joan Somes (2020), Kristi Engelstad (2019), Amy Saylor (2018), James Kroona (2017), Matt Jakubik (2016)



Enforcement TZD Star Award

Joshua Moore

This award is given to Sgt. Joshua Moore in recognition of his efforts to improve public safety in the city of St. Paul. In his role with the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Unit for the St. Paul Police

Department, Joshua manages the officers in his unit, fields traffic complaints, and assists on traffic injury and fatal crash investigations. In addition, he helps schedule and manage all speed enforcement, distracted driving, pedestrian safety, seat belt, and move-over law TZD grant-funded events. Joshua has managed over 350 officer shifts, resulting in more than 3,600 traffic stops since October 2020.

Recent recipients: Chief Josh Hanson (2020), Cmdr. Jeremy Ellison (2019), Sgt. Kevin Otto (2018), Lt. Brad Norland (2017), Deputy Tom Coulter (2016)



Engineering TZD Star Award

Diane Langenbach

This award is given to Diane Langenbach in recognition of her efforts to reduce severe crashes at expressway intersections

in Scott and Carver Counties. As the South Area Engineer for MnDOT's Metro District, Diane served as the project manager for the installation of a reduced-conflict intersection in Cologne, which was one of the first in the state and remains one of MnDOT's most impactful spot location safety projects. Diane's communication with the community, local officials, and other stakeholders was critical for helping them understand the safety benefits as well as the tradeoffs of the project and for moving it forward.

Recent recipients: Loren Hill (2020), Renae Kuehl (2019), Richard Sanders (2018), Rick West (2017), Lou Tasa (2016)

Additional Awards



Media Award

Ken Thomas and Tess Taylor

This award is given to 106.7 WJJY's Ken Thomas and Tess Taylor of Hubbard Radio Baxter in recognition of their support

of local partnerships to educate and influence listeners about traffic safety. For years they—along with Hubbard Radio—have helped develop fresh and relevant traffic safety PSAs that use local leaders, athletes, and traffic safety partners. They have also helped recruit and record famous athletes to provide influential messaging at no cost to TZD partners. In addition, Ken and Tess dedicate a half hour every month to a current traffic safety topic.

Recent recipients: Tim Harlow (2017), Dodge County Independent Newspaper (2016)



Distinguished Public Leadership Award

Paul Aasen

This award is given to Paul Aasen for his efforts to influence individuals, teams, and entire organizations to improve Minnesota's traffic safety culture through legislative action. As president of the Minnesota Safety Council, Paul was instrumental in the passage of hands-free legislation in addition to being a key leader of the coalition of organizations, associations, and

advocates. Paul has also played a critical role in helping pass the work zone speed management study bill, among other successes. He knows the intricate details of the legislative process and has the ability to bring the right players to the table to make policy happen.

Recent recipients: Kristine Hernandez (2020), Hon. Jim Carlson, Hon. Frank Hornstein, Hon. Scott Newman, Hon. Mark Uglem (2019), Lisa Kons (2018), David Bernstein (2017), Chief Gary Kroells (2016)



Emerging Leader Award

Avery Malone

This award is given to Avery Malone in recognition of her efforts to improve traffic safety through her leadership with the Thief

River Falls Key Club. During the 2020–2021 school year, Avery's family moved, but she chose to continue to attend her school and Key Club remotely. At a time when many students were experiencing Zoom fatigue, Avery continued to forward the work of Teen TZD and TZD. She helped plan and organize the final school day's visiting traffic safety "celebrities," coordinated work on the Teen TZD website, and engaged fellow students to continue planning TZD efforts.

Recent recipients: Distraction-Free Life Club Youth Outreach Team at Eden Prairie High School (2020), Lincoln High School Key Club at Thief River Falls (2019)

Traffic Safety Innovation Award



Minnesota Emergency Nurses Association Minnesota State Council

This award is given to the Minnesota Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)

Minnesota State Council in recognition of its efforts to introduce the DOSCI screening tool to Minnesota law enforcement officers and agencies. The DOSCI (Driver Orientation Screen for Cognitive Impairment) tool, along with education about older drivers, helps officers determine during a roadside stop if a driver is cognitively impaired or too disoriented to be allowed to continue driving. This tool has made its way into at least 50 law enforcement agencies, filling a training gap in older driver safety awareness education.

The Minnesota ENA consists of over 740 members across the state and promotes safe practice, safe care, community safety, advocacy, and injury prevention. The MN ENA State Council is eligible to apply for state grants and, by collaborating with the State of Minnesota and TZD, is able to carry out a variety of patient safety initiatives related to injury prevention.

Recent recipients: American Student Transportation (2020), Project Bright Light, Bemidji Area Schools (2018), KARE 11 #eyesUP Campaign (2017), Motorcycle Dial-A-Ride (2016)

Kathy Swanson Outstanding Service Award

The Kathy Swanson Outstanding Service Award recognizes exceptional leadership in efforts to improve traffic safety in Minnesota, build partnerships, and mentor others in the field, as well as long-term passion, dedication, and commitment to reducing the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crashes on Minnesota's roads.



Colonel Matt Langer

This award is given to Colonel Matt Langer in recognition of his unwavering support of traffic safety and demonstrated commitment to saving lives on our roadways throughout his career with the

State Patrol. He has served as chief PIO for the agency, spread traffic safety messages to target audiences through radio spots, coordinated border-to-border speed enforcement waves, and led comprehensive strategic planning efforts for MSP, as just a few examples of his efforts. His support of the TZD program has been steadfast throughout the years, and he continually instills its importance to all he works with. He is a calm and committed leader, partner, and mentor who is dedicated to his agency, his staff, traffic crash victims, and the citizens of Minnesota.

Recent recipients: Howard Preston (2020), Lieutenant Don Marose and Joel Watne (2019), Mark Peterson (2018), Judge James Dehn (2017), Sue Porter (2016)

TZD 2021 Awards Subcommittee Members

- *Paul Aasen*, Minnesota Safety Council
- *Linda Dolan*, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- *Jason Engeldinger*, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Bill Hammes*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Kristine Hernandez*, Office of Traffic Engineering, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- *Kammy Huneke*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Irene Jones*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Stephanie Malinoff*, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- *Julie Philbrook*, Hennepin Healthcare
- *Karen Sprattler*, Kimley-Horn
- *Mark Vizecky*, State Aid for Local Transportation, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Nominations for the 2022 TZD Awards will be accepted beginning in January, with forms available on the TZD website.

A full list of past award recipients can be found at www.minnesotatzd.org/about/awards.

