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DRIVER EDUCATION TEACHERS FROM FOUR STATES NAMED TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE BY NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY FOUNDATION

Selected by their peers at American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association

NEW YORK, NY, July 14, 2026 -- Driver education teachers from four states have been selected by their peers nationwide as Teachers of Excellence. The honor, with a cash stipend, comes from the National Road Safety Foundation and the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA). The honorees are Melissa Manson of Vermont, Derek Stewart of Florida, Boyd Westman of North Dakota, and Momi Nu'uhiwa, of Hawaii.

Teacher of Excellence honoree Melissa Manson owns Cow Tales Driver Education in Fairfield, VT. After home schooling her two children, she began a career in teaching, which includes driver education.

Teacher of Excellence Derek Stewart teaches thousands of students every year throughout Florida through the Florida Virtual School.

Boyd Eestman, Teacher of Excellence honoree, teaches driver education at Valley City High School in Valley City, ND, where he also serves as a coach.

Teacher of Excellence honoree Momi Nu'uhiwa is the driver education coordinator and also teacher driver education at Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School in Laupāhoehoe, HI.

These outstanding teachers inspire their peers to be passionate and effective teachers of this important lifetime skill," said Harold Fleming, a past ADTSEA president who heads the TEA selection committee. "We are proud to recognize them as our 2026 Teachers of Excellence."

All were honored this week at the ADTSEA national conference in Raleigh, NC, where they presented innovative lesson plans to their peers.

"These Teachers of Excellence are dedicated to the young people they serve, and they are role models in ways that go far beyond driver training," said David Reich of The National Road Safety Foundation and a member of the ADTSEA Board of Directors. "The Teachers of Excellence have a true passion for the important work they do to make driving safely a lifelong experience."

The Teacher Excellence Awards, given by The National Road Safety Foundation, are named in memory of Dr. Francis Kenel, a traffic safety engineer, former director of the AAA, author of driver ed teacher training materials and a mentor to countless driver education instructors.

The American Driver and Traffic Safety Education is the professional association that represents traffic safety educators throughout the United States. As a national advocate for quality traffic safety education, the group creates and publishes policies and guidelines for driver ed and conducts conferences and workshops for teachers. It was instrumental in creating the new driver education curriculum standard from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF), a non-profit organization, has supported ADTSEA's Teacher Excellence Awards program for the past 13 years. For more than 60 years, NRSF has created driver education programs and materials for free distribution to teachers, police, traffic safety agencies, youth advocacy groups and others. NRSF has programs on distraction, speed and aggression, impairment and drowsy driving. The group also sponsors contests for teens in partnership with SADD and FCCLA, as well as regional teen contests in partnership with auto shows in Chicago and Detroit. To view and download free programs and for more information, visit www.nrsf.org.

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