



Contact: David Reich – National Road Safety Foundation
(212) 573-6000 cell 914 325-9997
david@reichcommunications.com



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

Honored by peers at school resource officers national conference

NEW YORK, July 10th, 2016 – Officer Kristen Mayo, a school resource officer for the Round Rock (Texas) Police Department who works with students in Stony Point High School in Round Rock, Tex., has been named the recipient of the 2016 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 Anaheim, Calif. on July 13, recognizes innovative teaching of traffic safety in schools by a school resource officer (SRO). It carries with it a \$1,000 honorarium for the honoree's police department.

Officer Mayo, one of 13 SROs in the Round Rock PD, has worked as a school resource officer for seven years out of nearly 22 years in law enforcement. A member of the Round Rock Police since 2011, she began work as an SRO two years ago. She also served as an SRO with the Gwinnett County School Police in Georgia from 2005 to 2009.

At Stony Point H.S., Officer Mayo has worked to build bridges and break barriers between students, teachers and administrators and law enforcement. This year she created Safe Prom Week, a weeklong event that raised awareness of the consequences of impaired driving and bad decisions, which included a public safety fair, wrecked car demonstrations and a "reality education for drivers," with simulators that dramatically demonstrated the impact of impairment on reaction time.

In other projects to build understanding and positive relationships between teens and the police, she brought students and police together for the Round Rock PD Blue Dress Project, a project which collects prom dresses for underprivileged teens whose families could not afford them. This year Officer Mayo was asked by Blue Dress Project Coordinator if she could find scholarships for students to use at a local Prom Dress Provider, Austin Fairy Godmother. She collected money from her peers for 10 scholarships for Round Rock ISD students use for prom dresses, accessories and shoes rental. She works with the Round Rock Police Foundation to support the RRPD's charities, like the Round Rock Junior Police Academy. She serves her department on numerous committees providing direction to the department and on the Police Officer Association Board.

"Officer Mayo's dedication and efforts to bring groups together within her community cannot be measured by words or awards," said Sgt. Marc Gray, SRO Supervisor at the Round Rock PD. "Rather, her efforts will be measured by the bridges she has built, the lives she has affected, and her continuous contributions that make her community a better place to live."

Mo Canady, Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, said, "Officer Mayo, this year's Innovation in the Classroom winner, is a perfect example of the lasting impact a police officer can create by interacting with young people in a positive way that teaches and inspires in order to promote trust and understanding between young people and law enforcement."

"The work that Officer Mayo is doing with young people is worthy of recognition and emulation in school districts nationwide," said Michelle Anderson, Director of Operations at The National Road Safety Foundation. "We are pleased and proud to recognize such a dedicated and caring officer."

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. The organization has supported NASRO's Innovation in the Classroom program for seven years. NRSF has programs on speed and aggression, drinking and driving, and drowsy driving. Its newest programs, "Road Buzzed: A Look at Impaired Driving," "Generation tXt" and "Stay in the Picture," address impaired and distracted driving and prom and teen summer driving safety. NRSF also sponsors national contests for teens in partnership with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Scholastic, and regionally with the Chicago Auto Show and the Los Angeles Auto Show. To view free programs and for more information, visit www.nrsf.org or www.teenlane.org.