

Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66603



phone: 785-296-3585
fax: 785-296-0287
www.ksdot.org

Richard Carlson, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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For more information:

Brianna Landon
785.291.3956
KDOT.Media@ksgov

People Saving People award recipients announced

Wichita – Winners of the state's 2017 People Saving People Award were honored today as part of the 23rd Kansas Transportation Safety Conference in Wichita.

This year's award recipients are:

AAA Kansas Traffic Safety Fund Trustees—The AAA Kansas Traffic Safety Fund Trustees are an important partner in educating the driving public on various traffic safety issues. Through this partnership, the Trustees have purchased impaired driving videos and distributed nearly 2,000 driver education videos to AAA members and teen drivers. They have also provided funding for two seat belt convincers for the Fort Riley Safety Office and numerous public service announcements targeting teen drivers and other risky driving behaviors. Additionally, they have been an important partner in the formation and continuation of the Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE) program targeting teen seat belt use.

Sheriff Sandy Horton, Retired—Sheriff Horton has been a traffic safety advocate throughout his law enforcement career. As Undersheriff in Crawford County, Horton started a traffic safety unit in 1988 and implemented a county wide policy requiring use of seat belts. In 2009, Sheriff Horton began the SAFE program. Since its inception in 2009, teen seat belt use in Crawford County has increased from 61 percent to more than 90 percent in 2016.

Undersheriff John Koelsch—Undersheriff Koelsch volunteers his time to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety in Lyon County. Koelsch promotes walking school bus activities as well as teaching children in elementary school the fundamentals of walking and biking. Koelsch also volunteered his time to take the lead on providing a pedestrian/bike route to the All Veterans Memorial Park in Emporia. The Cottonwood Nature Trail opened on November 10, 2016.

Kristin Nichols—Ms. Nichols has a strong commitment to safe driving. She spends significant amounts of time educating the community, law enforcement, and other professionals, and she

provides information to those who may be challenged while operating a motor vehicle. Among her accomplishments, Ms. Nichols is one of nine people in the United States to hold the certification of American Occupational Therapy Association Specialty Certification in Driving and Community Mobility. Ms. Nichols is also an active member of the Kansas Older Driver Emphasis Area Team, Board member of the Americans for Older Driver Safety and has lectured at the Healthy Aging Coalition of Kansas City.

Tweeting Troopers—Through their effective use of Twitter, the Tweeting Troopers disseminate safety messages on a daily basis and still continue their busy daily activities as Kansas law enforcement officers. Their messages reach thousands of drivers daily and are an integral part of the public outreach effort of the Kansas Highway Patrol. This innovative program has been recognized nationally and several of the Tweeting Troopers have presented this unique delivery method to other law enforcement agencies in neighboring states and throughout the US.

The People Saving People Award highlights efforts of a person or organization that has a positive effect on transportation safety behavior. The Kansas Department of Transportation sponsors the award along with the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration.

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