MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As I’m writing this, I’m in that bittersweet position of winding down my summer to gear up for a new school year. Every year at this time I take a moment to reflect back on what transpired in the previous school year and summer. I find that, through this reflecting, I am able to enter the next school year and summer with a more focused approach. Part of this approach is trying to come up with new ideas and strategies that will enhance my teaching. In order to do that, I attended the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) national conference in August.

For those of you who have never gone to an ADTSEA conference, you are missing out on great insights and helpful information that would enhance your driver education programs. A major message came out of the conference: Driver education is an endangered species in public schools! The other really clear message of the conference was that we can and must save it from extinction!

A NEW & EXCITING CONFERENCE

This year’s conference offers two new and exciting features: First, IASE has teamed up with the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association (ITCSA) to share resources and provide participants with more conference options. Second, our keynote speaker will be Dr. Terry Kline, a nationally recognized speaker in the area of driver and traffic safety.

Dr. Terry Kline has given presentations on driver skill enhancement techniques at more than 20 state and national conferences. He has developed curriculum for highway-railroad grade crossings, elementary bicycle education, junior high school traffic safety, secondary alcohol and driver education, adult commercial driver skill enhancement, and adult alcohol education programs. Kline has also served as the editor of The Chronicle of ADTSEA and ADTSEA News and Views, a refereed national journal for traffic safety education.

Many other interesting topics will be offered at the conference. One topic of major interest is the session on the oversight change of driver education from the Iowa Department of Education to the Iowa Department of Transportation. For those who are not already aware, this change officially took place July 1, 2002. This impacts us all, so it will be of great importance to attend this session to hear just how it will affect us. Also this year, attendees may earn staff development credit or graduate credit for certification renewal or salary advancement purposes.

The conference will be held October 31 and November 1 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston. For questions about the program, contact Terry Garrett, tgjagarrett@mchsi.com, 515-961-2835. For directions or registration, contact Sharon Prochnow, prochnow@iastate.edu, 515-294-3781, or visit www.ctre.iastate.edu/iase/.

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This year our own conference promises to be a very new and exciting experience. We are teaming up with the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association (ITCSA) to provide a unique opportunity for driver and traffic safety professionals to meet and exchange knowledge. For more information, see the related article in this issue or contact Sharon Prochnow, prochnow@iastate.edu, 515-294-3781.

Now is the perfect opportunity for you to enhance your profession and yourselves. I challenge you to do just that. Driver education is an endangered species, so we need to be just as dedicated and diligent as those who helped save the bald eagle from extinction. It is our profession, but we can’t do it alone. Each of us must go out and promote our worthiness to our legislators, administrators, parents, and communities. Together, we can make a difference! ✓

—Doree Ward

ADTSEA CONFERENCE REVOLUTION

A revolution in education is taking place and we are a part of it. That best sums up this year’s national convention of the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA).

The conference was a hands-on, “bring the ideas and information back to your classroom” conference. At the conference, we had the opportunity to learn new classroom-teaching techniques from outstanding teachers across the country. Curriculum development was not slighted either.

We learned that interactive teaching in today’s classroom requires a big investment in technology, but that interactive teaching goes beyond equipment. Interactive teaching requires more classroom time, more teacher preparation time, and smaller class sizes when compared to the conventional teaching techniques most of us are familiar with. But the benefits are well worth it!

One of the conference sessions identified the following points on how to promote and support driver education programs:

1. Do we promote our usefulness and worthiness?
2. Do we have a clear and shared focus (private and public) so we’re all on the same page?
3. Do we superintendents and principals fully understand our mission?
4. Do we have high standards and expectations?
5. Are your curriculums, instruction, and assessments aligned with standards?
6. Is there a high level of parent and community involvement?
7. Are you continuing to grow as a professional by attending workshops and conferences aimed at driver and traffic safety education?

It is important that we all take a look at our programs with the above questions in mind. We ask you to focus on question 7. Our annual fall conference is an excellent opportunity to help you do that. ✓

—Curt Hanson, IASE Business Manager, and Doree Ward, President

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### Q&A: DRUGS

Are drugs other than alcohol a factor in motor vehicle crashes? The role of alcohol as a major factor in motor vehicle crashes is well established. Much less information is available concerning the contribution of other drugs. Many legal and illegal drugs other than alcohol can impair driving ability, even in moderate concentrations, and may increase crash risk. However, their use among drivers is apparently quite limited, and there is presently insufficient scientific evidence that any drug other than alcohol increases crash likelihood.

**Which drugs are most likely to affect crash risk?** According to a 1988 report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the drugs with “the most potential to be serious highway safety hazards” are tranquilizers; sedatives and hypnotics (for example, barbiturates); and marijuana.

—Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Highway Loss Data Institute

### TWO NEW EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

#### GDL VIDEO

A new graduated driver licensing (GDL) video has been developed with funding through the Iowa Safety Management System (Iowa SMS). The video was completed early in 2002 and, by the end of the school year, had been viewed by 8,000 students. Another 20,000 students are expected to view the video in driver education classes during the 2002–2003 academic year.

The first section of the video explains GDL and how different incidents can affect driving privileges. The last section focuses on real stories from families who have lost teenagers to crashes.

Driver’s license examiners take the video with them as they visit driver’s education classes. The video will enhance, not replace, the materials and instruction already used in the classes.

Feedback from students, teachers, and parents has been very positive. Both found the family stories especially powerful and many requested additional family stories about permanent injuries and other types of consequences people have experienced in Iowa.

Students who filled out surveys in the initial evaluation of the film scored 100% when examined on the GDL licensing content contained in the film. Schools have requested special presentations of the video to students in the spring as part of their student safety efforts preceding Prom and graduation celebrations.

Iowa SMS is sponsoring a sequel and enhancements to this video, including more true stories and closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

#### RED LIGHT GREEN LIGHT

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed a video on intersection safety called “Red Light Green Light.” The video emphasizes the importance of individual responsibility when it comes to making intersections safer.

The video may be downloaded and copied at no cost (go to http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/media/video.htm). Contact Hari Kalla at 202-366-5915 for more information.

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The IASE Board wishes to thank IASE sustaining members for their contributions.
Have you reached an important professional milestone? Your IASE peers want to recognize your accomplishment at the upcoming IASE annual conference. To apply for your service award and/or retirement certificate, complete the following application.

Check the appropriate category:

☐ 20 years teaching driver education
☐ 30 years teaching driver education
☐ 40 years teaching driver education
☐ retirement (year: _______________

Name (as you want it to appear on the award or certificate):
______________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

City, State Zip Code: _____________________________________________

Home Telephone: ________________________________________________

Work Telephone: _________________________________________________

E-mail Address: _________________________________________________

Send applications to

Curt Hanson, 801 N. Court, Fairfield, IA 52556-2235, or e-mail the information to hansoncu@lisco.com. Application must be received by October 28, 2002, for the award to be presented at the conference.