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### ***Ford Driving Skills for Life Event for Teens held in Dickinson***

Many teen drivers, ages 14 to 18, from across North Dakota participated in today's *Ford Driving Skills for Life (DSFL)* event at Dickinson High School. The event is a free, hands-on traffic safety program for new drivers and provides participants a chance to be involved in multiple traffic safety activities such as:

- A ride and drive exercise targeting impaired and distracted driving; learning how to load and back up a trailer; and blind spot training.
- Interactive learning experiences with many different types of simulators such as a seatbelt convincer; a battery-powered vehicle simulating the effects of impaired and distracted driving; an activity mat focusing on distracted driving and much more.

"Teens were able to experience unsafe driving situations in a safe and controlled environment. Wearing impaired driving goggles, texting while driving and seatbelt convincers opened their eyes to the tragedies that could occur when driving isn't taken seriously," stated Karin Mongeon, Safety Division Director with the NDDOT. "It is not just your life you are putting at risk when you make poor decisions while driving, you are jeopardizing the lives of others as well."

The purpose of this safety event is to teach newly licensed drivers the necessary skills for safer driving and the importance of making good decisions while driving.

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in America. On average in North Dakota, teen drivers are involved in nine crashes per day. North Dakota traffic safety partners recognize the importance of educating teen drivers on how to improve their driving skills and brought the *Ford DSFL* safety event to Dickinson.

The North Dakota *Ford DSFL* event held in Dickinson is in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, North Dakota National Guard, Parkway Ford, North Dakota Highway Patrol, Stark County Sheriff's Department, Dickinson Police Department, Dickinson High School, Altru Health System, AAA North Dakota, North Dakota Safety Council, American Trucking Association, U-Haul, and Southwestern Safe Communities Coalition.

For more information on this teen driver safety program, visit [www.drivingskillsforlife.com](http://www.drivingskillsforlife.com) or [www.ndcodefortheroad.com](http://www.ndcodefortheroad.com).