

North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

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Annual Traffic Safety Partner Summit Presents Awards to Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Advocates

Over 160 representatives of law enforcement, transportation, engineering, public health and other safety agencies from across the state discussed traffic safety at the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) annual Traffic Safety Partner Summit in Bismarck, sponsored by AAA North Dakota and Oxy Oil and Gas.

The Summit also included an awards ceremony for those who showed outstanding service and dedication to accomplish the overall goal of reducing crashes resulting in fatal and serious injuries in North Dakota. The Interim US Attorney Chris Myers presented awards in five categories to law enforcement and other safety advocates for their traffic safety service in North Dakota:

- **2016 Traffic Safety Officer of the Year** – This award goes to the officer who displayed significant contributions to traffic safety through enforcement, training and education for the past year.
 - ***Trooper Jed Dahnke, Fargo, North Dakota Highway Patrol***
- **2016 Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Officer of the Year** – This award goes to the officer who excels in conducting DRE evaluations and creating awareness to their peers and community about the dangers of drug use and drugged driving.
 - ***Officer Jesseca White, Fargo Police Department***
- **Beyond the Traffic Stop** – These officers performed outstanding investigative skills that led to multiple arrests for narcotics, stolen property, and outstanding warrants all resulting from a single routine traffic stop.
 - ***Chief Allen Schmidt, Berthold Police Department***
 - ***Officer Dan Salander, Bismarck Police Department***
 - ***Officer Tyler Welk, Bismarck Police Department***
 - ***Corporal Joe Hedin, Cass County Sheriff's Department***
 - ***Corporal Mike Lee, Grand Forks Sheriff's Department***

- **Traffic Safety Honor Roll Award** – This award recognizes advocates of traffic safety and those who promote traffic safety messages to their peers through their own initiatives.
 - ***Sergeant Damian Hoyt and the Stutsman County Deputies***

- **Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Awards** – These individuals were recognized for their commitment to promoting Child Passenger Safety in their communities by ensuring proper installation of child restraint seats, public education opportunities, teaching efforts, and dedication to a local, area-wide or statewide CPS program.
 - ***Dan Veer, Bismarck, Bill Barth Ford***
 - ***Rhonda Saxberg, Jamestown, North Dakota Highway Patrol***
 - ***Melissa Swenson, Grand Forks, Altru Health System***

Nominations can be submitted by any law enforcement personnel and are reviewed by a team at NDDOT.

For more information on traffic safety efforts to reduce motor vehicle deaths and serious injuries in North Dakota, visit www.codefortheroad.com.

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