



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Transportation Safety Division

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Oregon driver educator named Teacher of the Year

Richard D. Hanson, a driver educator in the Tigard-Tualatin School District, has been named “2006 Teacher of the Year” by the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association and the American Automobile Association. Hanson represented Oregon at ADTSEA’s annual conference held earlier this month in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The award recognizes **integrity and excellence in teaching.**

In accepting the award, Hanson mentioned dozens of people who have helped him in his efforts not only to educate young drivers but to teach them important life skills.

“If you have seen the cell phone commercial that shows a caller backed by a tremendous network of people helping to make a successful call, then you will understand why these people are important to me and deserve more than my thanks,” Hanson said.

Hanson, **involved in driver education activities at the local, state, regional and national level for the past eight years**, participated in a vigorous review process before being selected for the honor. He was first nominated to represent the state by the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Transportation Safety Administrator, Troy E. Costales and Driver Education Program Manager, John L. Harvey. His nomination packet included a portfolio, a 10 minute classroom videotaped lesson segment, a 10 minute in-car videotaped lesson segment, and written essays. In addition, he met with the Selection Committee for a question and answer interview during the ADTSEA Conference.

“Rich is always willing to go the extra mile to help students, whether it is in alternative education, anatomy/physiology, auto mechanics, philosophy or driver education classes,” Costales and

Harvey wrote in their nomination letter. “At the local and state level, he has built a strong network of dedicated professionals and empowered them to share a high drive for academic excellence. He has created a sense of community within driver and traffic safety education that is based on consensus of purposes, and high standards of behavior and academic performance.”

Hanson has been a driver education instructor since 2002 and is the current President of the Oregon Traffic Safety Education Association. According to Costales and Harvey, “Rich has brought honor and recognition to the Tigard-Tualatin School District through his hard work and leadership.

“When something needs to be accomplished, Rich Hanson is the person who always gets the successful outcomes.”

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Photo: Rich Hanson, right, with Dr. William Van Tassel, manager of Driver Training Operations, AAA National Office.

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