



**The National School Transportation Association
Presented 2014 Awards**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Travis Pryor
703-684-3200- office
TPryor@yellowbuses.org

July 24, 2014

CHARLESTON, SC- The National School Transportation Association presented annual industry awards honoring those who have achieved a level of excellence from all facets of the industry at Tuesday night's Awards Dinner as part of NSTA's annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

"We are very proud of the dedication and commitment this year's honorees have displayed to the industry. Each, in their own way, has left a lasting contribution on the school transportation industry and we commend them for their efforts," stated NSTA President Tim Flood.

The 2014 National School Transportation Association awards and the recipients of each included:

The Golden Merit Award recognizes excellence in the industry in service, safety and community responsibility. This year's recipients include:

Lucille Ayotte, Waterbury, Connecticut, First Student, Inc.
John Benish, Jr., Oak Brook, Illinois, Cook-Illinois Corporation
Durham Topeka Customer Service Center, Durham School Services
Paul Quinn Mori, Huntington Station, New York, Huntington Coach Corporation
Brian Rutford, Richmond, California, First Student, Inc.
Bob Rutkoski, Naperville, Illinois, First Student, Inc.
Mike Sullivan, Marlborough, Massachusetts, First Student, Inc.
Marilyn Tasaka, Vancouver, British Columbia, First Student, Inc.
Laura Warren, Memphis, Tennessee, Durham School Services
Bill Young, Los Angeles, California, First Student, Inc.

The Thomas Built Buses Continuing Education Grant, which is given to a member contractor or their staff to pursue continuing education. This year's recipient is Justin P. Olson of GO Riteway Transportation Group in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

The Outstanding Driver Service award is given to a school bus driver who has demonstrated exemplary safety performance and a commitment to excellence. This year's recipient is Alfred "Al" Lewis of First Student, Inc. in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

NSTA's Green School Bus Fleet Certification Program recognizes NSTA members for their efforts in working toward a cleaner environment. This award has been reviewed and is endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus USA Program. The certification levels to be bestowed are Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze depending on the level of fleet reduction in particulate matter. This year's award winners include:

Platinum

First Student, Inc.,
Bozeman, Montana

Waukesha, Wisconsin

National Express Corporation
Roseburg, Oregon
Spokane, Washington

Gold

First Student, Inc.
Avalon, California

Santa Ana, California
St. Andrews, California

West Valley, California
Portland, Oregon

Huntington Coach Corporation
Manhasset, New York

National Express Corporation
Lewisville, Texas

The Go Yellow, Go Green Award was created to recognize a leader in the school bus industry who has demonstrated initiative and commitment in pursuing positive response to growing environmental concerns. This year's recipient is The Trans Group LLC of Spring Valley, New York.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes excellence in long-term efforts on behalf of pupil transportation. This year's recipient is Robert "Bob" Pudlewski of Fleet Ops Consulting LLC in Orchard Park, New York.

The Meritorious Service Award was established to recognize an individual who has displayed unparalleled vision, support, and leadership toward improving pupil transportation safety, the

promotion of NSTA and the school bus industry. This year's recipient is Bill Loshbough of Execuwest Consultants in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For additional information on this announcement, please contact Travis Pryor at 703-684-3200 or at tpryor@yellowbuses.org.

About NSTA:

The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for 50 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide. Offices are at 122 South Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-684-3200. Fax: 703-684-3212.