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**National School Transportation Association  
Held Annual School Bus Driver International Safety Competition  
At West Ashley High School in Charleston, South Carolina**

**CHARLESTON, SC**-The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) hosted the 44th Annual School Bus Driver International Safety Competition on July 20, 2014, at West Ashley High School in Charleston, South Carolina.

This competition presents school bus drivers from across the United States and Canada with the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills, and to compete for an international title. On Saturday, July 19th contestants began with a written exam testing their understanding of the rules of the road. On Sunday, July 20th drivers got behind the wheel of a school bus and completed the road course; competing in one of three categories: conventional, small bus, or transit.

"The safety competition is our best event of the year as it recognizes the outstanding drivers that transport children safely every day. School buses are the safest form of transportation available and this record is in large part because of the industry's top priority of training and attention to safety. These top competitors really are the best of the best from across the United States and Canada and we are honored to sponsor this competition each year," said Tim Flood, NSTA President.

Winners and their contractor companies were acknowledged on Sunday evening at NSTA's Dinner and Awards Ceremony, sponsored by IC Bus. The banquet festivities were held at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina.

The 2014 Small Bus winners, by rank, were: Russell Altizer of Montgomery County Public Schools in Christiansburg, VA; Lisa Loring of Mid Columbia Bus in Toledo, OR; Chris Helmer of Portland Public Schools in Portland, OR; and Jeffrey Long of Newport News Public Schools in Newport News, VA.

The 2014 Conventional winners, by rank, were: Ed Rollins of Harrison County Schools in Clarksburg, WV; Gene Thrasher of Bend-Lopine School District in Bend, OR; Billy Wiseman from Kanawha County Schools in Charleston, West Virginia; Brian Newhouse of Kanawha County Schools in Charleston, WV; Michael Graham of Cobb County School District in Marietta, GA; Larry Hannon of Centennial School District in Warminster, PA; Molly Cornwell of First Student in Wichita, KS; Craig Kanner of First Student Canada in Calgary, AB; Mark Black of Springfield R 12 in Springfield, MO; and Gerry Crane of Magnolia Independent School District in Magnolia, TX.

Finally, the 2014 Transit winners, by rank, were: Mark Miller of Bellingham Public Schools in Bellingham, WA; John Welsh of Lower Merion School District in Ardmore, PA, Angelica Ortiz of Allen Independent School District in Allen, Texas; Melanie Nelson of Northshore School District in Bothell, WA; Victor Garza of Newport-Mesa United School District in Costa Mesa, CA; Cheryl Vogelsang of Eagle Wolfing Leasing in Exton, Pennsylvania; Lori Robertson of Petermann Bus in Liberty Township, OH; Rose Cox of Santa Fe Independent School District in Santa Fe, Texas; Karen Schoonover of Mountain Valley Transportation in Roanoke, VA; and Eduardo Escobedo of United School District 443 in Dodge City, KA.

**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.