



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National School Transportation Association Announces Winners of the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition

Indianapolis, Indiana - The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) hosted the 47th Annual School Bus Driver International Safety Competition on July 16, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana. This event was held in conjunction with NSTA's 53rd Annual Meeting & Convention, which begins today. The three-day meeting affords members the opportunity to network with their colleagues and hear presentations on issues of most importance to the industry.

This competition offers school bus drivers from across the United States and Canada the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills, allowing them to compete for the international title. To be eligible, a driver must have competed in a state or provincial competition during the last year in the school bus class they are entering in the International Competition. The driver with the highest score in each school bus class for a public-sector carrier and the driver with the highest score in each school bus class for a private sector carrier are eligible to compete in the International Competition.

The contestants began the competition on Saturday, July 15th with a written exam testing their understanding of the rules of the road. Then the drivers got behind the wheel and completed a road course on Sunday, July 16th. Drivers competed in one of three categories: conventional, small bus, or transit.

NSTA is pleased to announce the following winners, which were acknowledged on Sunday, July 16 at NSTA's Dinner and Awards Ceremony, sponsored by IC Bus. Banquet festivities were held at the Hilton Indianapolis.

Small Bus

First Place - **David Mansfield – Ottertail Coaches, Fergus, MN**

Second Place - **Karina Larson – Forest Lake Area Schools, Forest Lake, MN**

Third Place – **Mary Slate - Kanawha County Schools, Charleston, WV**

Conventional Bus

First Place – **Billy Wiseman - Kanawha County Schools, Charleston, WV**

Second Place – **Larry Hannon, Sr. – Centennial School District, Warminster, PA**

Third Place – **Michael Castaneda – Northeast Independent School District, San Antonio TX**

Honorable Mention – **Mark A. VanderZouwen – Grandville Public Schools, Grandville, MI**

Transit Bus

First Place – **Hannah Beard – First Student, St. Charles, MO**

Second Place – **Laurel Bird - Preston School District #2, Preston, ID**

Third Place – **Ted Dubbs – Lower Merion School District, Ardmore, PA**

Honorable Mention – **Gene Thrasher – Bend-Capine School District, Bend, OR**

“The National School Transportation Association is delighted to host this event every year. It truly showcases the best of the best in school transportation as each of the competitors are tested on their knowledge, maneuvering and skill. School bus transportation is the safest mode of transportation available and these elite drivers show why at every turn. We congratulate all of the competitors in this international competition as well as the winners in each vehicle category.”
offered NSTA President Todd Monteferrario.

About NSTA:

The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for over 50 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide.