For Immediate Release

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National School Transportation Association Announces Winners of the 49th Annual School Bus Driver International Safety Competition

AUSTIN, TX - The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) recently honored several drivers who successfully competed in the 49th Annual School Bus Driver International Safety Competition (SBDISC). The competition was held on Sunday, July 21, 2019, at the Hays CISD Transportation Facility in Kyle, TX. It was held in conjunction with NSTA’s 55th Annual Meeting & Convention, running from July 21-24, 2019.

This competition offers school bus drivers from across the United States and Canada the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills, allowing them to vie for an international title. In order to be eligible, drivers must compete and win a state or provincial competition in their designated school bus category (small bus, conventional, or transit) within the past year. Drivers must also officially enter the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition in the same bus class that he or she won at the state or provincial level. Winners are determined by the driver having the highest score in each school bus category.

The SBDISC commenced on Saturday, July 20, 2019, with driver orientation and a written examination in order to evaluate their understanding of the rules of the road. On Sunday, contestants got behind the wheel and completed a rigorous road course. Drivers competed in one of three categories: small bus, conventional, or transit.

NSTA is pleased to announce the following winners, who were acknowledged on Sunday, July 21, 2019 at the NSTA Safety Competition Dinner and Awards Ceremony, sponsored by IC Bus, LLC. Banquet festivities were held at the Hyatt Regency Austin.

Small Bus:
First Place: John Labus, Cabell County Schools (WV)
Second Place: Dodo Freerksen, First Student – Canada (AB)
Third Place: Sally Musolino, North Clackamas School District (OR)
Honorable Mention: Melissa Mesler, First Student – Anoka (MN)

Conventional Bus:
First Place: Billy Wiseman, Kanawha County Schools (WV)
Second Place: Mark Siersma, Troup County B.O.E. (GA)
Third Place: Larry Hannon, Jr., Centennial School District (PA)
Honorable Mention: Ruth Del Vecchio, Krapf School Bus (PA)

Transit Bus:
First Place: Mark Miller, Bellingham Public Schools (CA)
Second Place: Sergio Duenas, Durham School Services (CA)
Third Place: Delene Lewis, Allen ISD (TX)
Honorable Mention: Derek Bosserman, Tahoe Truckee Unified (CA)
In addition, Laura and Todd Gray, daughter and son of former International School Bus Driver Safety Competition competitor Gregory Gray of Owasso - Public Schools (Owasso, OK) were honored as 2018 Transburo Scholarship recipients. Greg competed in the SBDISC competition five times, and the Gray family graciously served as competition judges this year.

Laura attends Roger State University where she is working on her Bachelor of Science in Biology with a focus on Environmental Conservation. Todd also attends Roger State University, where he, too, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, but with a concentration molecular science. He plans a future in genetics. Both students were awarded $1,000.00 scholarships.

“This wonderful competition highlights the skill and professionalism of school bus drivers throughout North America. NTSA is honored to host this event, and we are proud of the men and women who participate. These drivers exude skill and professionalism, and they represent the very best that the school transportation industry has to offer. Not all the great drivers made it to Austin, so when you have the opportunity, please say thank you to your child’s school bus driver,” said NSTA President Blake Krapf.

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**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.