

The Red Light Alert

Wayne State University, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office Garner Traffic Safety Awards

Wayne State University's (WSU) annual safe driving campaign and a repeat drunk driver vehicle forfeiture program in Macomb County were honored by the

Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) at the group's annual awards luncheon March 15 at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing.

Each year the commission honors organizations, programs and individuals for outstanding contributions to traffic safety. The awards luncheon is part of the 12th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Eight traffic safety and two long-term awards are being presented.



Annual event promotes safe driving

WSU's Transportation Research group garnered an award for its Drive Safely to Wayne State

Campaign. The three-day event promotes safe driving habits such as safety belt and child safety seat use, wearing motorcycle protective gear and sober driving through demonstrations, displays and interactive, hands-on participation.

In 2006, the program's third year, safety belt use increased on campus from 91 percent prior to the campaign, to 94 percent after the event.

Taking the wheel right out of their hands

Feeling that license sanctions alone weren't enough to keep habitual drunk drivers off the road, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office literally took the wheel right out of their hands by enacting a vehicle forfeiture program.

The OWI Repeat Drunk Driving Crackdown/Forfeiture Program kicked off January 1, 2006. Since its inception, more than \$200,000 has been generated by the program and divided into three areas to further the

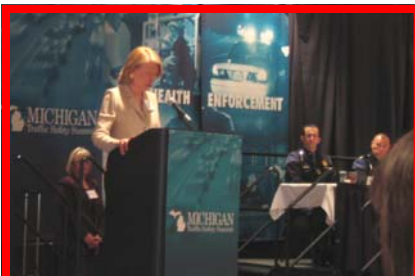
fight against drunk driving: equipment and additional drunk driving patrols for law enforcement, courtroom training for the prosecutor's staff and donations to charities consistent with the Crime Victims Rights Act, such as MADD and DARE.

The GTSAC was formed in 2002 to serve as the state's forum for identifying key traffic safety challenges and developing and implementing plans to address those issues. The state agencies that comprise the GTSAC are: Community Health,

Education, Secretary of State, State Police, Transportation, Office of Services to the Aging, Office of Highway Safety Planning and the Office of the Governor. There are also three representatives of local government appointed by the Governor.



Eric Smith
Macomb County
Prosecutor



Secretary Land awards the Austin Award for Long-Term Traffic Safety.



*Editor's Note:
Press Release by
GTSAC, dated
March 12, 2007*

Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

116 West Ottawa
Suite 200
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Phone: 517-334-6060
Fax: 517-334-7052
Email: wallaced@michigan.gov



We're On the Web!
www.paamtrafficsafety.com



This material was developed through a project funded by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

2006 Austin Awards

Long-Term Traffic Safety Award Winners

The Austin Award is presented to those who have demonstrated a continuing commitment to traffic safety. In 2006, the award was given to:

Michigan State University—For making a major commitment to address the issue of personal injuries on campus over the past ten years. MSU took a holistic approach by addressing all modes of transportation in making improvements to campus traffic flow. This has resulted in a 62 percent reduction in crashes and an 83 percent decrease in injuries since 1995.

Sergeant Mark Bos, Holland Police Department—For his commitment to traffic safety throughout his 33 years as a law enforcement officer. Sergeant Bos dedicated his career to improving traffic safety in all forms in Ottawa County through various education and enforcement efforts.

Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission 2006 Award Winners

The remaining 2006 Awards given out were:

Education and Prevention of Impaired Crashes (E.P.I.C.)—**Jeff Mitchell, Van Buren County Road Commission.** For educating young drivers about the dangers of impaired driving through the use of a simulator car and fatal vision goggles, and organizing an injury prevention presentation by nurses from Bronson's Level I Trauma Center.

Establishing Realistic Speed Limits—**Specialist Lieutenant Gary Megge and First Lieutenant Thad Peterson, Michigan State Police.** For using proven traffic safety engineering principles to establish realistic speed limits throughout the state in an effort to reduce crashes, maximize safety, and improve overall traffic flow in Michigan.

Networking, Educating, Advertising and Reinforcing (N.E.A.R.)—**Sergeant Cathy Fitzgerald, Jackson Post, Michigan State Police.** For linking schools, law enforcement, and local media to prevent the often tragic results of underage drinking through prevention education, peer support, and enforcement efforts in Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Calhoun Counties.

Reaching Out Against Road Rage (R.O.A.R.R.)—**Kay Shabazz, Muskegon Heights.** For battling road rage by establishing the foundation of R.O.A.R.R., which has increased awareness of this issue and provided advocate support and assistance to victims and their families.

Sheriff's Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers (S.T.O.P.P.E.D.)—**Michigan Sheriff's Association.** For promoting good driving habits among young drivers through a program that requires officers to inform enrolled parents if their teen driver is stopped by police for any type of violation.

Slow Down to Get Around—**Steven Reed, Granger Container Service, Inc.** For spearheading a campaign to increase the safety of public service workers by encouraging motorists to slow down when approaching and passing public service vehicles on and near the roadway.

