



# Driver Education Program News

ODOT - Transportation Safety Division

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## The Driver Education Program Team



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## Driver Education Program Update

**William A. Warner**, Driver Education Program Manager  
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1200 hours. Sound like a lot? If you say 100 hours a month it would take a whole year to achieve 1200 hours. How about 10 work weeks? Three full time staff working 40 hours a week from the first week of October to the 5<sup>th</sup> of December was what it took to prepare for the Oregon Driver Education National Assessment coordinated by NHTSA. Was it worth it?... Every intense second!

ODENA (the acronym for Oregon Driver Education National Assessment) started with invitations to 5 national experts, plus two NHTSA staff, to come and spend a week in Oregon. In advance of their visit, we prepared a briefing book. It is anything but brief. Since there were no other assessments of driver education (we were the first official NHTSA assessment) we started by taking forms from the other NHTSA assessments like DUII and Traffic Records and crafted our own forms. That was the easy part. What was hard was coming up with the comprehensive documentation that addressed policies, rules and statutes.

Three weeks before the team got here, we sent the electronic copy of the briefing book to the assessment team. It had everything in the index hyperlinked so they could move around the documents easily (much like we did in the ORPC Curriculum). When the team arrived, we gave them a hard bound book version that resembled a ream of paper each! We are so happy about the final product that we have made the commitment to turn the briefing book into our program operations manual!

We had folks from Minnesota, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Maryland and Texas. These people represent some of the best minds in driver education in our country and it showed! There were 34 panelists brought in from all over Oregon to present on topics relating to the national standards. There were administrators, instructors, police officers, school owners, DEAC members, DMV personnel, WOU faculty and staff, and, of course, the folks from Transportation Safety Division. In under 2 days, panel members were interviewed and the Assessment Team began their process of writing. They started with our briefing book, added the live comments from the panelist interviews, and went to task writing statements about each of the standards in relationship to Oregon's DE program. These were called the "status" statements. Then on Wednesday, the team met behind closed doors (until Midnight) and developed recommendations based on their status statements.

Thursday morning, there was a roomful of interested and eager participants from the panelist group that came to hear the "Wrap out." This hour-long presentation shared some of the top "high priority" recommendations with us, while the rest were submitted with their draft report. It's too soon to share with you some of the report results, but we promise that in our next issue, you will get to "read all about it." I will tell you that we heard many comments about what Oregon is doing well, during the discussion.

In all my years months at TSD, ☺ I have never been through and enjoyed such an endeavor and I know that Oregon is going to benefit so much from the assessment team's recommendations. Stay Tuned!! ❖

## To Seal or Not to Seal..., that is the Question

By William A. Warner



I thought I would take a moment and talk about the Seals that Transportation Safety issues to Providers for use on Student Certificates of completion. Recently, we have had some less-than-positive issues come to light and realize we need to "chat."

Providers can make or buy any kind of certificate they wish for Teen certification; the only requirement is that you make room or leave space for the seal. This little 1 ¼" diameter foil seal is small but carries a big punch. It is used for rewarding a student who has successfully completed the "ODOT-Approved" Driver Education course.

I will say that one of the considerations coming out of the national assessment was that we at least consider standardizing the certificate. I don't know where we'll come out on that, but the Driver Education Advisory Committee is going to address this issue in the January meeting. There are lots of things to consider and coming up with a solution that works for everyone is not as easy as some might think.

While it is hard to believe, there is always the opportunity and possibility for misuse of our seal. Since we do not regulate what kind of certificate it can be placed on, it is almost impossible for DMV Field Agents or Insurance Agents, for that matter, to know when a seal is affixed to a counterfeit certificate.

While we are in the process of "discussion" about the future of our seals, I have asked Shari to restrict the issuance of them to providers on an "as needed" basis. Basically that means if your school has 72 students finishing up in the next few weeks, you need to contact Shari (as always) and give her the list of the students so that she can send you enough seals to allow you to certify each completion. Since no course can be completed in less than 35 days, there is ample time after registration to get your student lists in to Shari.

Here are some of the other things in the "works" regarding seals...

- Seals should not be re-issued for lost or misplaced certificates. We think of the seals as "one seal per completion" and so should you. Many providers have very nice letters on official letterhead that are used for replacement certificates for insurance purposes. Be sure to include the child's full name and their permit number on the letter. In Bandon, we always included the students' instruction hours on this letter as well, much the same as the original certificate.
- Our seals are designed so that they may not be photocopied; however, if you photocopy the certificate for the child's file before issuance, it may be enough for insurance companies should that issue arise. (Just another idea.)
- We are working with DMV about moving to a direct post system, where, upon completion, a student's completion data would be sent in a packet to DMV field offices. When the student shows up for their drive test, the "DE" box will automatically be checked, no longer requiring the issuance of a certificate at all.
- In the interim, discussion about numbering the seals or using an NCR form are some of the things the DEAC will discuss.

In conclusion, we enjoy the relationship we have with the providers and wish to do whatever we can to provide support for teaching traffic safety to teens. This includes a healthy certification system with which we can all be proud! ❖

### Calendar of Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**Pacific NW Driver and Traffic Safety Conference**  
March 4 & 5, 2011 Doubletree Hotel, Portland

**Western Oregon University - Student Interaction Workshops**  
January 28, 2011 6:00pm-9:00 pm at Clackamas CC, Harmony/OIT Campus  
Jan 29, 2011 6:00pm-9:00pm in Eugene



## A Special Thank You



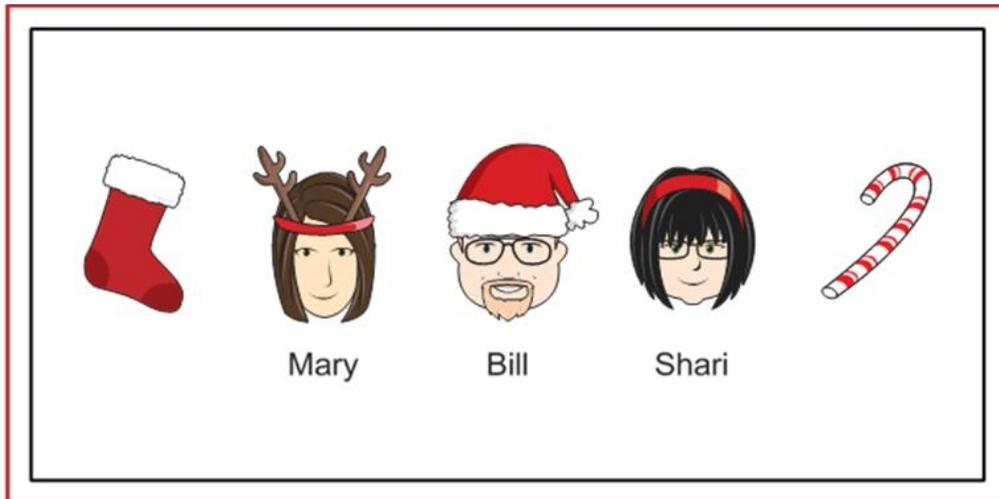
The Driver Education Program staff would like to extend a very well deserved thank you to the people who participated in the National Assessment in Clackamas, Oregon! Your input and enthusiasm for driver education was very much appreciated and will help us to continue our mission of excellence in delivering traffic safety education to teens throughout Oregon.

Shelley Campbell  
Jon Congdon  
Phyllis Copeland  
Andrew Crites  
Dawn Davis  
George Doddington  
Larry Fairclo  
Chase Ferris  
Linda Ferris  
Rich Hanson  
Angela Hendrickson  
Marshall Hess  
Mary Jo Hess  
Lois Lents  
Kathy Levine  
Mitch Mason

Patty McMillan  
Ruth Ann Meize  
Damon Millican  
Holly Nelson  
Rick Nickell  
Loree Nosack  
Judy Ode  
Becky Renninger  
Sharon Rothacker  
Josh Szurszewski  
Liz Taylor  
Robert Tower  
Dave Unis  
Emily Unis  
Steve Vitolo  
Harl Williams



And last but not least...



**Happy Holidays from the TSD  
Driver Education Team**