



# Driver Education Program News

ODOT - Transportation Safety Division

September/October 2012

## The Driver Education Program Team



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## Driver Education Program Update

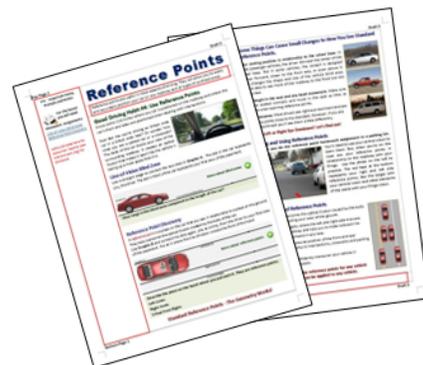
**William A. Warner**, Driver Education Program Manager  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division

### "The New Phonebook's Here!!"

Remember the excitement that Steve Martin portrayed in the movie "The Jerk" when the phone book came and he found his name? In his perspective he was finally a real person!

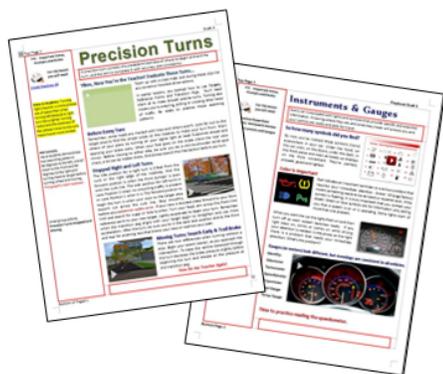
Well, it's not a phone book and it's not here (just yet) but everyone who is getting a taste of the new "ORPC Playbook - The interface" during development and testing is running around just like Steve! ☺

In a few short weeks (at the ODTSEA Conference @ Eagle Crest), we will reveal what most assuredly will be the next big breakthrough in driver education in the State of Oregon. While not changing the award winning content of the Oregon Risk Prevention Curriculum, we have been hard at work developing an interface that will change how instructors connect the concepts with the students.



### Highlights include:

- All new 3-D animations
- New (more current) Video
- Interactive Instructor/Student Pages
- Restructured (and reduced) PowerPoint Lessons
- Game Show Activities (like Family Feud) and;
- "You choose the ending" activities!



For now, continue using the ORPC 5.0 format from the CD until we actually release the new interface (March 2013 Tentative)

Remember, the content is not changing. Those of you who use the "Partnership" book will be able to continue using it with the new interface; we're just changing the way instructors and students access the Oregon Risk Prevention Curriculum.

It is an exciting time to be in driver education in Oregon!!  
Bill ❖

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## Teachers! Your Action is Required!

Mary DeFerrari, Driver Education Program Quality Assurance Specialist  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division

During last fall's ODTSEA conference we mentioned that Instructor Certification was on the wire, and we are very excited that it is now just around the corner!

October 15<sup>th</sup>, Western Oregon University will begin accepting applications for instructor certification cards. Application deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, you must hold a valid certification card to teach.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T APPLY?

Instructor certification cards are NOT optional. We are advising program coordinators that beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>; they are to remove from teaching any instructor who has not submitted to them a copy of a valid certification card. Act now to assure you don't have a break in service.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Gather your documentation
- Register for and complete continuing education if you have earned fewer than 15 hours in the past 2 1/2 years (initial application only).
  - Obtain duplicates if you have misplaced your continuing education completion certificates
  - If you are counting in-house trainings as part of your hours, work with your employer to assure they submit confirmation of your attendance.
- Obtain a new DMV Certified Court Print driving record if your report is older than 60 days
- Enroll for a CPR or First Aid course if your certification is expired or soon to expire
- Complete your application: [wou.edu/trafficsafety](http://wou.edu/trafficsafety)

Instructor certification won't happen automatically. If you want to teach in an approved program you must complete an application and submit documentation of your qualifications.

If you need continuing education hours, here are some ideas:

- Register now for the ODTSEA conference Oct 12-14. See <http://www.otsea.org/>
- Take an on-line course through Chemeketa Community College. See [www.drivereducation.chemeketa.edu](http://www.drivereducation.chemeketa.edu)
- Register to retake a portion of an initial instructor training course. Contact Western Oregon University at [wou.edu/trafficsafety](http://wou.edu/trafficsafety) or (503) 838-8483.

### APPLY OCTOBER 15 FOR BEST TURNAROUND TIME!

Even if you are not currently teaching, we urge you to act now! We expect a rush of applications closer to the deadline, which will likely result in delays. After December 1<sup>st</sup>, a reduction in staff assigned to this project may also delay your application. Putting this off will simply reduce the amount of time your certificate is valid – everybody renews at the same time. ❖

## Earn CE Credits! - The Fall ODTSEA Conference is Coming Up Soon

This year, the Fall ODTSEA Conference is being held on October 12, 13 and 14 in Redmond, Oregon at the beautiful Eagle Crest Resort. Instructors have the opportunity to earn 15 continuation hours.

Friday night will have 3 sessions including the First Aid/CPR session that will start at 5:00pm. The other 2 sessions will start at 6:00pm.

Saturday will start at 7:30am for registration and breakfast. The annual business meeting will be at 7:45am. The conference begins at 8:00am and ends at approximately 5:00pm. Saturday will consist of 3 general sessions and 5 breakout sessions.

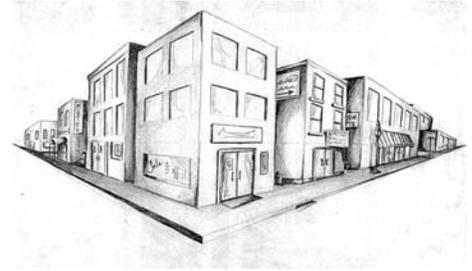
Sunday will have 1 general session and 3 breakout sessions. Breakfast will be at 7:30am, with the conference starting at 8:00am and ending at approximately 12:15pm.

Go to the ODTSEA webpage for more information about the conference and lodging. To register for the conference, go to the ODTSEA webpage or click <http://www.regonline.com/drivered2012>. ❖

## The Corner Has Finally Arrived

William A. Warner, Driver Education Program Manager  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division

Remember a few months back when the driver education team told everyone that we were heading for a more formalized instructor certification and that it was just around the corner? Well, the corner is here and so is the opportunity to begin applying for your 2-year DE Instructor certificate. As of October 15, 2012 (maybe earlier) you will be able to go to the Western Oregon University (WOU) instructor page and click on the "Instructor Certification" tab to start the process.



What's changed:

1. All instructor information will need to go to WOU for verification and archiving. However, your employer may also continue to require documentation from you.
2. WOU will send out notices 60-90 days in advance to remind you of your certificate expiration and whatever documents needed to reissue a certificate.
3. DMV Certified Court Prints will still be needed at this time, but we are actively pursuing a relationship with DOJ on criminal activity flagging.
4. You will need to keep your certificate card with you and provide your employer with a photocopy. This works especially well if you are working for two different providers.
5. For more information, go to [wou.edu/trafficsafety](http://wou.edu/trafficsafety). ❖

## Changes to the Driver Education Webpage

Shari Davis, Driver Education Program Administrative Specialist  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division



In an effort to focus information to specific audiences, some changes have been made to the Driver Education Program webpage. There is still the main program page which focuses on programmatic issues and upcoming events; but now there are two new links at the top of that page that will direct parents and teens to the Parent/Teen Resource Page for information and resources focused specifically to their needs. There is also a link to the Driver Education Instructor Resource Page with information and tools instructors can use in the classroom and beyond.

We ask for your input to make the pages as useful as possible. If you have any suggestions for something you would like to see added to the on-line resources, please let Shari know and she will try to incorporate those items whenever possible. ❖

# On-Line Continuing Education Courses Through Chemeketa Community College

Chemeketa Community College is offering online courses that will count toward continuing education hours for the ODOT instructor requirements. The upcoming class schedule is listed below. For more information and course descriptions go to the [Chemeketa webpage](#) or click the Course Descriptions link on the [Driver Education Program webpage](#) under the Continuing Education header.

If you have a group of five or more instructors, Chemeketa CC may be able to tailor a class to fit your specific needs.

To register by phone call Chemeketa directly at: 503 584-7541 or visit the website at [www.drivereducation.chemeketa.edu](http://www.drivereducation.chemeketa.edu) (then click on Continuing Education)



## Eugene ranks 12th on 2012 “Allstate America’s Best Drivers Report™”

*Eighth Annual Study Reveals Cities with Safest Drivers*  
08/28/2012 - EUGENE, OR.

The Allstate Insurance Company (NYSE: ALL) today released its eighth annual “Allstate America’s Best Drivers Report™.” The report, based on Allstate claims data, ranks America’s 200 largest cities in terms of car collision frequency to identify which cities have the safest drivers.

In the 2012 report, Eugene again ranks as one of the SAFEST driving cities, landing at number 12 on the list. According to the report, the average driver in Eugene will experience an auto collision every 12 years, which is about 16.5% less likely than the national average.

“Drivers in Eugene are making great progress toward keeping America’s roadways safer,” said Shauna McBride, Allstate’s Regional Spokesperson. “We salute Eugene’s best drivers and recognize their safe driving skills, which make all of our communities safer places to live, work and raise families.”

Below is a look at how other cities in Oregon finished.

City & Overall Ranking	Collision Likelihood Compared to National Average	Average Years Between Collisions
79. Salem, Oregon	2.9% more likely	9.7
151. Portland, Oregon	25.3% more likely	8.0

Car crash fatalities are at the lowest level they’ve been since 1949, but still average more than 32,000 every year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“It is vital for us to educate American drivers about safe driving behaviors they can practice on the road that will help make our roadways safer,” said McBride. “Minimizing distractions, obeying traffic laws, and using your car’s safety features like turn signals and headlights, are all ways to be safer, no matter where you drive.”

### Big-city vs. Small-city Driving

Different levels and types of traffic, noise and activity, as well as varying road conditions and rules, can make big city driving different than driving in smaller cities or more suburban areas. Allstate offers the following tips for driving in both settings. In larger cities:

- **Allow plenty of time to reach your destination.** Stop-and-go traffic, gridlock, traffic signal stops, pedestrian walkways and events that create traffic detours can add time to your travel.

*Article continued on page 5*

### *Allstate America's Best Driver Report continued...*

- **Know what's happening in the city during the time you're driving.** Find out if there are events that may impact traffic, and listen to traffic reports on your car radio. Avoid traffic jams or explore alternative routes, if possible.
- **Stay alert.** Be prepared to frequently stop or slow down for pedestrians, emergency vehicles, delivery trucks, parking cars, taxi cabs, and public transportation vehicles such as city buses.
- **Get directions to where you're going.** Review directions carefully in advance. If you get lost mid-trip, safely pull over and wait until you feel calm enough to get back on the road, using that time to get directions, check traffic or call for help.

In smaller cities and suburban areas:

- **Watch the speed limit.** Speed limits may be greater than in city traffic, which can lead some drivers to speed up and make roads dangerous.
- **Look out for pedestrians, especially children.** While there are typically fewer pedestrians or obstacles than in large metropolitan areas, there are also typically fewer crosswalks, so pedestrians may be less aware of traffic rules such as where and when to cross the street.
- **Know the rules of the road.** Suburban streets typically have fewer streetlights and signs, or greater distance between lights and signs. This means darker conditions when driving at night and less opportunity to be reminded of speed limits and other road rules throughout the day.
- **Keep a safe distance – especially around large vehicles.** Large vehicles like semi-trucks are more likely found on suburban roads than in large metro areas. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and others, and know that truck drivers might have limited visibility. If you attempt to pass a truck, make sure you have plenty of time and space to maneuver safely.

### **The Report**

For the past eight years, Allstate actuaries have conducted an in-depth analysis of company claim data to determine the likelihood drivers in America's 200 largest cities will experience a vehicle collision compared to the national average. Internal property damage reported claims were analyzed over a two-year period (from January 2009 to December 2010) to ensure the findings would not be impacted by external influences such as weather or road construction.

A weighted average of the two-year numbers determined the annual percentages. The report defines an auto crash as any collision resulting in a property damage claim. Allstate's auto policies represent about 10 percent of all U.S. auto policies, making this report a realistic snapshot of what's happening on America's roadways.

To view the complete "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report," or to see previous year's results, log onto [www.allstatenewsroom.com](http://www.allstatenewsroom.com).

### **About Allstate**

The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL) is the nation's largest publicly held personal lines insurer. Widely known through the "You're In Good Hands With Allstate®" slogan, Allstate is reinventing protection and retirement to help more than 17 million households insure what they have today and better prepare for tomorrow. Consumers access Allstate insurance products and services through Allstate agencies, independent agencies, and Allstate exclusive financial representatives in the U.S. and Canada, as well as via [www.allstate.com](http://www.allstate.com) and 1-800 Allstate®.

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Notes: The report analyzes cities from the Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Population for Incorporated Places over 50,000, ranked by July 1, 2011. The Allstate data excludes cities in the state of Massachusetts, as Allstate did not provide insurance in Massachusetts for the two-year time period reflected in this report. Other cities not represented by any zip codes found in Allstate data: Lakewood, Colo., Pembroke Pines, Fla and West Valley, Utah. The Allstate Best Drivers Report is produced solely to boost the country's discussion about safe driving and to increase awareness of the importance of being tolerant and attentive behind the wheel. The report is not used to determine auto insurance rates. A state specific adjustment was utilized for the Michigan cities to account for the unique coverage offered in that state. ❖