



2008 Instructor of the Year category winners – Round 2

The National Safety Council would like to congratulate the Defensive Driving Courses instructors who go above and beyond course training responsibilities to demonstrate leadership, dedication and a desire to impact the lives of students. Winners from seven standard instructor-certified programs and 11 state-specific certified programs have been chosen as nominees for the 2008 Instructor of the Year award. They will be featured in this and the next issue of *Driver Trainer*. The United States alone has more than 7,000 certified DDC instructors. All 2008 DDC Instructor category winners and the 2008 Instructor of the Year will be honored at the council's 2009 Congress & Expo, scheduled for Oct. 25-30 in Orlando, FL. Applications for the 2009 Instructor of the Year Award will be accepted beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Information is available on the DDC Information Highway.

DDC-International

Brent Batson

Brent Batson has seen in his picturesque homeland of Trinidad & Tobago how progress has its price on the nation's roadways, contributing to an alarming increase in traffic collisions and fatalities.

What motivates the DDC instructor of 13 years to save lives is his overall love for people and the opportunity to help them become enlightened and choose to change behavior.

"Where engineering and enforcement fail in a road transport system, education and encouragement must prevail," Batson said. "Hence, my continued drive to educate others on the importance of what I call these 'life choices' stems from a genuine desire to rid our country of the social ill of errant driving behavior and replace it with a culture of responsibility as defined as a road user."

Batson's career in safety began in 1996 when he became the Health and Safety Training Coordinator for Safety Systems and Services Ltd., a National Safety Council training center and distributor for Trinidad & Tobago in the Caribbean. That year, he was certified as a DDC-6/8, DDC-4 and Forklift Instructor. Batson said fellow instructor Ken Roberts – the first person to introduce



Batson

the concept of defensive driving in the country in the 1970s – opened his eyes to the importance of driver safety training and education as a matter of national importance.

In 2000, Batson continued to promote the council training courses through his own business, now called Training & Logistics Ltd. In addition to DDC and forklift operator training, the company is an NSC Emergency Care Training Centre for First Aid/AED and CPR. In 2004, Batson also became a certified security driving instructor for MSR Inc. in Virginia. The company offers training in advanced and tactical driving methods to local law enforcement agencies and private security firms.

Batson's contributions to defensive driving extend beyond the classroom. He is a founding member of the Arrive Alive organization, which in December 2004 launched a campaign to make the motoring public more responsible by partnering with law enforcement, local calypso artists and media. The goal was to make both drivers and public officials aware of the issue of traffic safety, Batson said, adding that he helped organize town hall and village meetings as well as public education workshops.

"My experience as a DDC Instructor helps me focus on educating people without preaching, but by empowering them to make the correct choice via education and awareness," Batson said. The focus now has turned to partnering with law enforcement to make a greater impact, he said.

DDC-4

Anthony M. DeMarco

Some students compare Anthony M. DeMarco to the late Rodney Dangerfield for being a nice guy who grew up in a tough neighborhood and is skilled at entertaining an audience, but the similarities stop there.

In addition to DeMarco's easy-going demeanor, colleagues say he is an experienced and dedicated professional. A retired Chicago Police officer, the security supervisor for Lake County High School Technology Campus has taught DDC-4 for 11 years through the College of Lake County Driver Safety Program, in addition to teaching police defensive driving at the College of Lake County. He also has taught DDC-Alive at 25.

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DeMarco said he teaches defensive driving through a student-centered approach that uses his extensive experience in law enforcement and, when needed, his knowledge of crash dynamics. Although he makes learning fun, DeMarco said he is very serious about the DDC message and ensuring students learn. “It’s important that when I leave there I want to know that they picked up some solid information,” he said.

He has been teaching DDC for more than a decade, and inspiring others to correct bad behavior for nearly four decades. Growing up in Chicago, DeMarco witnessed gang activity and knew what circumstances contributed to young people getting caught up in it. In 1964, he was hired as a certified social worker at the YMCA and was instrumental in the development of a pilot program that worked to prevent youth from joining street gangs in the inner city. In 1969, at the age of 25, he joined the Chicago Police Department and worked for 30 years in the hate crime unit, narcotics unit, organized crime division and license investigations. He also was a training instructor for Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy, which he helped establish. Americans might remember DeMarco from when he represented the Burglary Prevention Council on the “Today Show,” teaching host Bryant Gumbel and thousands of viewers how to safeguard their homes against burglary. Cameras followed DeMarco on location at a New York home as he showed what a typical burglar would steal, ending the segment by swiping a soft drink from a refrigerator before driving off with stolen items.

Even after all those years of working in the law enforcement trenches, DeMarco still has the enthusiasm and passion to help others by teaching DDC.

“If you don’t have the excitement and commitment to do this, you shouldn’t be doing this,” DeMarco said of teaching DDC. “You have to have a belief in it, and that belief is that you’re going to save lives.”

DDC-Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving

Donna Humphrey

Donna Humphrey knows how devastating the death of a young driver can be to a community. Having taught driver education for 21 years, Humphrey still can recall how she felt in 1982 when she heard one of her students had died in a wreck two weeks after graduating from high school.

“Everybody was miserable, just miserable, and wondering if her life could have been saved if she had worn a seat belt,”



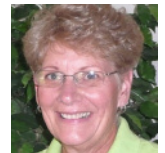
DeMarco

Humphrey said. Despite that loss and hearing students talk about being ticketed, she continues to teach driver safety. “I realized I did give them the information. Situations boil down to the individual making the choices. This is what our curriculum says and tries to instill in everybody. We all have opportunities to make choices and will face the consequences of those choices.”

Humphrey has been a DDC Instructor since 1997, and first taught the DDC-ADD class for the state of Illinois. In 1999, when the curriculum changed, she became certified for the newer version and is the only instructor to teach in southern Illinois. She also is certified to teach DDC-Alive at 25.

Her background in academia and driver education made the transition to teaching DDC a smooth one. A former school teacher in Marion Community Unit High School District No. 2, she has been director of student services for Marion Community Unit School K-12 since 2003.

Humphrey received her master’s degree in educational psychology in 1998 from Southern Illinois University. Her current position allows her to work with students, families and agencies, and to conduct workshops. Those skills, combined with her teaching abilities, help her to be a standout DDC instructor. Humphrey said she is able to present issues and lessons to groups in a manner that facilitates learning.



Humphrey

“I love teaching the DDC classes with the National Safety Council because I get to meet tremendously interesting people. I see people from all different backgrounds and ages,” she said.

Humphrey continuously strives to keep on top of new DDC curricula. In 2008 she attended a Webinar on the new DDC-ADD. “I feel like this is a very important part of re-educating and discussing driving situations,” she said of the DDC programs. “Sometimes people forget. We take so many things for granted when we drive, and this course just helps us come back to our basics. We are able to come back to thinking about how a situation might change our lives in the blink of an eye.”

DDC-6-New York

Darryl Gaines

Darryl Gaines rarely tells the story of how a driver who – although injured and blinded by a brake drum that smashed through the windshield – was able to avoid injuring others by pumping his brakes and steering his truck away from traffic into a barrier before rolling to a stop. The driver spent three months in the hospital with facial injuries. It took the beeping

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COMMENTS

The National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Courses International Advisory Committee announces the DDC University.

The National Safety Council driver improvement programs began in 1964. Since then, each new driver improvement program has been developed and each revision has been done in the NSC Product Development department with input from the DDC professional staff, students who have completed the program,



James A. Solomon
DDC Program Development and Training Director

comments from instructors in the field and guidance from technical experts on the DDC International Advisory Committee. As the program line has grown, a more diverse base of technical experts has been added to DDC-IAC to cover the broader base of our curricula.

For the past 24 years I have led the team that went into the field to teach pilot programs. This year we have added a quality level to the pre-pilot area of program development. The new level is known as the DDC University.

As each new revision or program development is assigned, faculty staff will follow the program through design, pilot and delivery. Each team will consist of at least three

DDC-IAC members certified to teach the program, at least one non-DDC-IAC member who is a certified Instructor Trainer, one technical expert, a product developer who will write the program, and the director of program development and training.

In 2008, you were notified in this column that we would be developing the 9th edition, and were asked for your written comments. When the 8th edition was placed on the shelf, DDC staff filed helpful comments from the evaluation cards and letters we received from your students. These comments, along with an electronic survey sent to all certified DDC-8/6 Instructors and a list of changing crash and citation data, were used to develop a new design document. The design document was distributed to DDC-IAC in January 2009. In March, DDC-IAC met for a three-day workshop in Jacksonville, FL, to build the skeleton of the 9th edition. At that meeting, the University Faculty was selected.

The DDC-8/6 certified instructor IAC members are:

Jack Hansen
Safety Consultant, NATLSCO
Mundelein, IL

Charles R. Stebbins III

Virginia State Safety Council Inc.
Bedford, VA

Andrew Williams

Tennessee Regional Safety Council Inc.
Nashville, TN

The certified Instructor Trainer is:

Lisa Daniels

College of Lake County
Grayslake, IL

The technical specialist is:

Peggy Miller

College of Lake County
Grayslake, IL

Members of the new University Faculty met at the National Safety Council headquarters in Itasca, IL, from July 20 to 22 to actually teach and do a critical evaluation of each session of the program.

The development department and staff met July 23 to turn all changes over to the designers. Two sites also were for live student pilots in early September.

The new materials will come to the distribution center in December 2009, and will be ready for shipment by Jan. 4, 2010.

All training centers, except those listed in the note below, must transition to the 9th edition by March 31, 2010.

No DDC Instructor Development Courses using the 8th edition materials will be approved for November and December 2009. As an NSC Certified Instructor Trainer you must not accept an assignment to teach an IDC during these two months. This rule does not apply to DDC-6-NY, DDC-6-TX, DDC-8-OH, DDC-8-VA or DDC-6-AZ. When the 9th edition is on the shelf, these special editions will be developed and forwarded to your state government approval agency.

For those of you teaching the current 5th edition of DDC-4 (except those state programs in Indiana, Connecticut and Florida), the new design of the 6th edition and the naming of the DDC-4 University Faculty will begin shortly. I will discuss that in more depth in the November edition of this column.

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sound of the driver's own heart monitor to help him realize he was still alive when he later awoke in the hospital.

But when Gaines does tell the story, students are always stunned when they hear the driver was Gaines himself.

"I didn't panic because I knew exactly what to do. It was a split-second decision," Gaines said of the 1999 crash. Gaines said his employer since 1992, Cablevision Inc. in Brooklyn, NY, helped him through the ordeal. He credits the company for making him a successful DDC instructor by giving him the opportunity to facilitate the course and supporting him at all levels of management.

"Defensive driving saved me and it also pushes me to teach it more, to let people know it does work," Gaines said of what inspires him to teach DDC-6-New York.

As the senior training manager at Cablevision, Gaines teaches DDC to field service technicians, is an instructor for hire, and is a customer service and sales representative. He also teaches DDC for Trama's Motorcycle and Auto School, conducts Instructor Development Training for the NSC Data Management Center in New York's downstate region, and monitors new instructor candidates who have attended the instructor development courses.

In addition, Gaines conducts the six-hour In-Service Update Seminar required by the New York City Department of Motor Vehicles. New York DDC instructors are required to attend the program every two years to remain certified. Gaines was certified as an instructor trainer this year.

Colleagues call him a powerful speaker, able to motivate people with his knowledge of curriculum, sense of humor and infectious enthusiasm. For Gaines, teaching DDC is his way of giving back. "The knowledge you share will save a life. You have the ability to teach and share a gift that is priceless," he said.

Gaines' good communication skills come from his experience working with different personalities. The Bronx native grew up in Cleveland before serving in the Marine Corps from 1980 to 1990 as a communications instructor and sergeant for the Field Service Training Unit. In 1988, as the Wire Chief for Marine Wing Support Group 174 in Korea, he received the Navy Achievement Medal for designing a telephone system. He started working for Cablevision in January 1992 as a technician, and later worked his way up in the organization, gaining operations experience in field service, construction and other technical areas.

Gaines was certified in DDC-6-NY in 1996 in Albany and recertified in 2006 when he started actively training drivers at

Cablevision. The company has been a DDC Private Training Center since June 20, 2003.

DDC-Professional Truck Driver

David Guyer

In the past seven months, one could say David Guyer has accomplished more than what some defensive driving instructors are able to do in years. Guyer is the safety supervisor for driver development and training at LinkAmerica Corp. He also is the safety orientation presenter and DDC Trainer for the Tulsa, OK-based company.

Guyer trains every driver for LinkAmerica and is involved in post-accident training, using techniques taught in DDC to help drivers understand the possible cause of the incident.

He completed the CJ International Training Inc. Instructor Development Course for DDC-PTD in May 2008 and, since then, has trained more than 1,750 LinkAmerica drivers.

His leadership and long-term dedication to the defensive driving field is shown through his understanding of driving and training, and in his use of this skill to educate about the realities of driving, said John Pinckney, an instructor and instructor trainer of DDC-PTD and vice president of marketing and training at Jack Worland Professional Driver Improvement Courses Inc. in Yorktown, IN. Guyer is continuously promoting driving safety awareness and driving education. As safety supervisor, he helps with driver qualification, presents safe driving tips at safety meetings, and is available for one-on-one counseling for driving behavior when not conducting orientation.

Guyer is more modest about his contributions. "The only way that it could happen is with the safety team I work with," he said. "They are the finest group of people I've worked with all my life. Everyone has such a passion for their work and a commitment to making this safety department the best that the world has ever seen. I know it sounds a little cliché, but they have so much knowledge. I'm such a novice and they really make my job easy."

Guyer is originally from Muskogee, OK. His family later moved 50 miles northwest to Tulsa. The aspiring broadcast journalist went to the University of Oklahoma and supported himself through college by hauling hazardous materials. But his academic career was cut short his senior year when he was forced to return to service as a Marine Scout Sniper in the U.S. Marine Corps at the start of the Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm. After his service, Guyer returned home to support his family, and through this new path in life he honed skills that now benefit him in his current safety career. Guyer

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Gaines

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had a short stint as a news and radio announcer and also worked in Internet technology. Those experiences gave him the skills he needed to manage a customized Web-teleconference platform that allows him to interact with 50 students at once via a 42-inch television screen.

LinkAmerica has approximately 1,200 drivers, and nearly 85 percent of the fleet has successfully completed DDC-PTD-6. Since May 2008, Guyer has put more than 1,200 hours of National Safety Council DDC-PTD instruction time into the Tulsa community of drivers.

DDC-Alive at 25

Nena Myers

Nena Myers never would have thought 10 years ago that teaching suspended drivers would be fun. But the 25-year veteran trooper for the Illinois State Police in Rock Island District 7 now says her attitude has changed. Myers began teaching DDC-Alive at 25 as a Safety Education Officer in February 2000 and, since then, has trained more than 2,800 drivers.

The mother of three and longtime advocate for teens said she started teaching because she wanted to know what to expect from her own children when they were of driving age. She discovered that her ability to create a calm learning environment and her public speaking skills helped open discussion among young drivers.

“The young kids are where you can make the most positive impression,” Myers said of why she teaches DDC-Alive at 25. “If you can take a past of bad driving and turn them around to make them more conscientious and more controlled in their thinking, perhaps you will see fewer crashes and fatalities on our roadways.”

Myers also is certified to teach DDC-6/8 and DDC-Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving. She is a certified Child Passenger Seat technician, and is the evidence and court officer for the Illinois State Police.

In addition, she teaches driver safety in the Rock Island school district, and said it was an easy transition from teaching students about the dangers of doing drugs through the DARE program. Myers’ public speaking talents recently helped her play an important role in implementing the program “Operation Cool.” The incentive program rewards high school students for wearing their seat belts throughout the school year with gift certificates and prizes from local businesses.

What also makes Myers a standout instructor is her strong support of the DDC curriculum. She often emphasizes to young drivers that those who take responsible control of situations on the road and in everyday tasks will achieve positive results in life. “I really enjoy this, meeting the people and sharing with them. I like to have fun and teach with a fun attitude, and hopefully they take what they learn and share it with other people as well,” she said.



Driver Trainer feedback

The Publications Department of the National Safety Council would like feedback on how instructors use the Driver Trainer newsletter, what instructors would like to read about in future issues, and what unique ways you incorporate the DDC program into teaching. Send an e-mail with the subject line “Driver Trainer feedback” to James Solomon at james.solomon@nsc.org or Associate Editor Deidre Bello at deidre.bello@nsc.org.

National Safety Council Defensive Driving Courses

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