

Texas Legislature applauds TDS

The Texas Legislature adopted resolutions on May 4, recognizing the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program and the Texas Transportation Institute.

especially the Sponstar winners, Driving the Message contest winners, Teen Advisory Board, and the TDS Outstanding Schools.

honor the Texas Transportation Institute's Teens in the Driver Seat program and extend sincere best wishes for continued success to all those associated with TDS..."

In part, the resolution read: "Be it resolved, that the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas Legislature hereby

Nearly 100 Teens in the Driver Seat members had planned

to be present for the reading of the resolution on Monday, but due to concerns related to the H1N1 flu (swine flu), the Day at the Capitol event was cancelled.

Read the full text of the [resolution](#).

State Rep. Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham, Texas - chair of the House Public Health

Committee-sponsored the resolution on behalf of TDS.

State Sen. Carlos Uresti sponsored a similar resolution adopted by the State Senate.



The purpose of the resolution was to honor all those involved in TDS,

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First TDS golf tournament huge success

The first Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) golf tournament on March 5 was a great success. The golf tournament was held to support the continued expansion of TDS efforts across Texas.

The honorary event co-chairs, Secretary of State Hope Andrade and Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones, offered their thanks to the numerous sponsors, which included BANC PASS, HEB, Silver Eagle Distributors, AECOM, Bank of America and the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



TDS Director Russell Henk, Secretary of State Hope Andrade and Shawna Russell attended the TDS golf tournament.

After a windy spring morning of golf, Secretary Andrade spoke at lunch and thanked everyone for their support of the TDS mission to reduce the number of crashes that injure and kill young drivers. TDS Director Russell Henk recognized the tournament winners after lunch. The Martin Marietta Materials team won first place, and the AECOM/UTSA team won second. Ramiro Andrade shot "closest to the pin," and David Marquez had the "longest drive."

Organizers are planning for the second annual tournament to be held in March 2010.

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 TDS winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Sponstar awards. A Sponstar is a teacher/sponsor that goes above and beyond what is required of him or her, to make the TDS program more effective and fun.

This year's winners are:

- **Juan Gonzalez** - Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, Laredo, Texas
- **Shana Lyles** - Gatesville High School, Gatesville, Texas
- **Suzanne Reese** - Creekview High School, Carrollton, Texas
- **Carolyn Schlueter** - Azle High School, Azle, Texas
- **Jamin Teran** - Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, Laredo, Texas
- **Susan Wiggs** - Irvin High School, El Paso, Texas
- **Mary Willard** - Channelview High School, Channelview, Texas

To read their full profiles, visit the [Sponstar](#) page on t-driver.com.



Teens in the Driver Seat is proud to announce the members of its first-ever Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Members of the TAB will serve as ambassadors of TDS, provide ideas and insight on how to get teens interested in the program, help organize TDS-oriented events and activities, give their two cents on promotional items and related elements, and attend the annual Teens in the Driver Seat summit.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2009-2010 Teen Advisory Board:

- **Luke Adkins** - Lubbock Cooper High School, Lubbock, Texas
- **Victoria Banuelas** - Irvin High School, El Paso, Texas
- **Oscar Cortez, Jr.** - Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, Laredo, Texas
- **Alli Dalmolin** - Alvin High School, Alvin, Texas
- **Felicia Garcia** - Mission Early College High School, El Paso, Texas
- **Cori Hash** - Archer City High School, Archer City, Texas
- **Jaywin Malhi** - Garland High School, Garland, Texas
- **Brianda Reyes** - South Garland High School, Garland, Texas
- **Danielle Silva** - Wanda R. Smith High School, Keene, Texas
- **Fernando Sosa** - United High School, Laredo, Texas
- **Ashley Thompson** - Keller High School, Keller, Texas
- **Albert Torres, Jr.** - Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, Laredo, Texas
- **Erika Trujillo** - Jefferson High School, El Paso, Texas

Check out the [members](#) of the TDS Teen Advisory Board.

TDS winners (continued)

With the 2008-2009 school year coming to an end, it's that time of year again to applaud Teens in the Driver Seat Outstanding Schools. Kudos to all those who worked hard to make this year a great one!

- **Alvin High School** - Alvin, Texas
- **Andress High School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Anton High School** - Anton, Texas
- **Archer City High School** - Archer City, Texas
- **Bethel Christian School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Bronte High School** - Bronte, Texas
- **Canutillo High School** - Canutillo, Texas
- **Channelview High School** - Channelview, Texas
- **Childress High School** - Childress, Texas
- **Clarksville High School** - Clarksville, Texas
- **Clint High School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Communications Arts High School** - San Antonio, Texas
- **Coronado High School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Creekview High School** - Carrollton, Texas
- **Cushing High School** - Cushing, Texas
- **Edgewood High School** - Edgewood, Texas
- **El Paso High School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Elkhart High School** - Elkhart, Texas
- **Grandview High School** - Grandview, Texas
- **Greenwood High School** - Midland, Texas
- **Immanuel Christian School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Irvin High School** - El Paso, Texas
- **La Vernia High School** - La Vernia, Texas
- **Lampasas High School** - Lampasas, Texas
- **Mission Early College High School** - El Paso, Texas
- **Nacogdoches High School** - Nacogdoches, Texas
- **North Shore Senior High School** - Houston, Texas
- **Skyline High School** - Dallas, Texas
- **Sweetwater High School** - Sweetwater, Texas
- **Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts** - Laredo, Texas



Communications Arts High School in San Antonio, Texas, received a plaque for being a TDS Outstanding School. Joshua Little and Alexis Cisneros (pictured) received awards of recognition.



TDS Outstanding Schools received plaques for their hard work and dedication in fighting the number-one killer of teens in America.



TDS Director Russell Henk hands out end-of-the-year awards at Communications Arts High School.



Jackie Ortega, Samantha Edwards, Mr. Joel Mosier, Alice Morris, Christine Harris and Israel Irroballi from Andress High School in El Paso, Texas, received their plaque and certificates for being a Teens in the Driver Seat Outstanding School.

TDS and H-GAC host first-ever Regional Roundup

On April 18, eight Houston-area high schools were represented at the first-ever Houston-Area Regional Roundup. Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) teamed up with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) to host the Roundup.

The purpose of the Roundup was to introduce Houston-area schools to the TDS program, help teens meet each other, and generate new ideas to promote the program for prom, graduation, summer break and the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

The main goal of TDS is to empower teens to make a difference in their area regarding safer driving, and the Roundup helped make this possible.

The turnout was substantial, attitudes were positive, and five schools have signed on to run the program through the close of this school year. An additional three will start the program in the fall. TDS thanks the Texas Transportation Institute Houston staff and the H-GAC for their combined effort.

Schools that attended the event include: **Anahuac HS, Wunsche HS, Bush HS (Fort Bend ISD), Channelview HS, Shepherd HS, Alvin HS, Kolarik 9th Grade Center (Channelview ISD) and Morton Ranch (Katy ISD).** TDS and the H-GAC are planning another Roundup for the fall.



Archer City HS teens spread the word



Big Distraction and the Archer City High School mascot helped spread the message at the teen safe driving day.

Archer City High School, in Archer City, Texas, held a teen safe-driving day on March 11, to help spread the word about how to improve teen driving safety. The day included videos, speeches, and a mock car crash.

Patsy Walls from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) spoke about distracted driving and also brought the "rollover convincer" from TxDOT.

Senior Trooper Gary Rozzell from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) spoke about the importance of being safe on the road and the dangers of driving under the influence.

At the end of the day, the students were alerted to a car crash in the school's parking lot. The "victims" of the crash (TDSers Kelsee Gurrero and Brady Cowan), volunteer firemen, an ambulance and a hearse were at the scene of the crash.

The day concluded with students going back to their classrooms where the TDS team led a discussion about ways to drive safer.

Click It or Ticket's special emphasis this year

The Click It or Ticket (CIOT) campaign made its way across Texas this year with a new emphasis on teen drivers and passengers. The Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program at four different high schools in Texas (**Channelview High School, Woodrow Wilson High School, McAllen High School, and Brackenridge High School**) held press conferences to spread the message that this year Texas state troopers and your local police and sheriff's departments will be keeping a close eye on you.

CIOT has been an important safety program by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for nearly 10 years, but this is the first year that teen drivers and passengers are a really big deal. That's important for a lot of reasons:

- More than half of the young drivers killed in crashes were not wearing safety belts when they crashed.
- Car crashes kill more young people than any other cause.
- Only one out of every five teenagers thinks that not wearing a safety belt is risky, and most of them admit that most of the time, they don't buckle up.

Representing TDS, eight students from the four different high schools spoke about the CIOT enforcement: from Channelview — Kellie Dennison and Kayla Mizell, from Woodrow Wilson — Adrienne Johnson and Christa Vielma, from McAllen — Kylie Kinsolving and Crawford Higgins, and from Communications Arts High School— Joshua Little and Alexis Cisneros. The students at the CIOT press conferences talked about why TDS is important to them and how the program can help save lives with important messages about buckling up.

At the same press conferences, police officers reminded teenagers that they had extra reasons to buckle up this year. Troopers will be handing out McDonald's free food coupons to young drivers and passengers who are wearing safety belts. Also, you can download free music just by watching a two-minute safety belt video at www.clickitorticketmusic.com.

Free food, free music, not to mention staying safe. That's a lot of good reasons to click it!



Left to right: Kellie Dennison, Kayla Mizell, Christa Vielma, Adrienne Johnson, Crawford Higgins, Kylie Kinsolving, Joshua Little and Alexis Cisneros.

What's going on in your area?



Gatesville High School held a safe-driving day in preparation for their prom.

Austin TDS Reps. Casey Dusza & Tina Geiselbrecht

- **Ellison High School** in Killeen, Texas, joined TDS on March 24. Their FCCLA group is participating in the program, and they plan to focus on promoting TDS at Prom.
- **Breckenridge High School** in Breckenridge, Texas, started the program with their FCCLA group and want to focus on TDS the week before prom.
- **Early High School** in Early, Texas, was introduced to the TDS program.

BCS/Waco & Yoakum TDS Reps. Bernie Fette, Jen Ross & Sam Holland

- **Anderson-Shiro High School** in Anderson, Texas, is the newest school to start the TDS program in the Bryan/College Station area.
- **Gatesville High School** in Gatesville, Texas, had a teen safe driving day on April 14.
- **Brenham High School** will be taking their pre-assessment the week of May 11.

Dallas TDS Rep. Christie Madsen

- The Garland Youth Council sponsored and hosted the second TDS Day at the local outdoor mall, Firewheel Shopping Center, in Garland, Texas. There were seven booths at the event. Five of the booths were planned, coordinated and creatively established to help visitors to the event learn about the top five risks teen drivers face on the road. Also present

were Dee Dee Bates, the local State Farm Insurance representative (and co-sponsor of the event), and the entire Garland Youth Council to support the life-saving event.

- **Graham High School** has displayed a TDS banner for everyone that walks into the school. They will be putting on a safe teen driving assembly for the entire school.



Teens in the Driver Seat banner at Graham High School.

- Christie Madsen and Casey Dusza presented and exhibited at the 73rd Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) conference in Arlington, Texas.
- **Archer City High School** in Archer City, Texas, had a two-day event at their high school promoting TDS and safe driving. There was a full day planned with student-oriented messages delivered by transportation experts from TxDOT, the Department of Public Safety, and Sam Holland of TTI. As the day moved toward mid-afternoon, parents and adults were invited to attend informative presentations.

- On April 22, students at **Woodrow Wilson High School** participated in TxDOT's annual Click It or Ticket campaign. Representing Teens in the Driver Seat and the Garland Youth Council, Adrienne Johnson and Christa Vielma

spoke to Wilson High School students and the local media about the importance of buckling up.

- Students at **Clarksville High School** took big steps to get the TDS driving safety message out. Alex Meals and Morgan Drew volunteered their voices by recording the TDS message in their own words. Then, the team had their public service announcement (PSA) played on the local radio station for an entire week. Listen to the PSA at <http://www.t-driver.com/activities/showcase/clarksville/>

El Paso TDS Reps. Llubia Corella & Jeff Shelton

- **Greenwood High School** in Midland, Texas, has done several TDS activities, like taping the outlines of bodies around the school to remind fellow students about the top five risks. They also presented TDS at the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) at the end of March to help entice more schools to join. Amber Garduño, student council president, gave the presentation.



Poster from the Coronado HS safe-driving poster contest.

- **Coronado High School** in El Paso, Texas, hosted a safe driving poster contest.



Christie Madsen, Christa Vielma, Dorothy White and Adrienne Johnson were instrumental in the Click It or Ticket event at Woodrow Wilson High School.

What's going on in your area?



Kayla Mizell and Kellie Dennison spoke at a Click it or Ticket press conference at Channelview High School.



This wrecked car at La Vernia High School was part of their driving safety week.



- A TDS booth was present at the North Loop Health Fair on April 6. It was sponsored by Superior Health Plan at North Loop Elementary.

- On May 30, TDS will have an information booth at the Superior Health Plan Community Health Fair.

- On May 16, TDS will host a workshop for the Girl Scouts of America in the El Paso Del Norte Region.

Houston TDS Rep. Lori Gray

- **Madison High School** in Houston, Texas, hosted a TxDOT Click It or Ticket media event on April 20.

- Lori Gray visited **Shepherd High School** in Shepherd, Texas, and gave a TDS presentation on March 26.

- On April 18, TDS and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) hosted the first Houston-Area Regional Roundup. The Roundup brought together existing schools and new schools interested in learning more about the TDS program. The Roundup helped the local teens in the Houston area meet each other and generate new ideas to promote the TDS program for prom, graduation, summer break and start of the next school year. Schools that attended the event include: **Anahuac HS, Wunsche HS, Bush HS (Fort Bend ISD), Channelview HS, Shepherd HS, Alvin HS, Kolarik 9th Grade Center (Channelview ISD) and Morton Ranch (Katy ISD).**

- **Channelview High School** teens Kellie Dennison and

Kayla Mizelle spoke up for TDS at the Houston TxDOT Click It or Ticket event at Madison High School in Houston. Local law enforcement and TxDOT showed teens at Madison HS the effects of a rollover crash with a rollover convincer unit and a crashed truck that two teens walked away from because they were wearing their seatbelts.

- **Nacogdoches High School** has a new [Teen Teams Page](#) on t-driver.com showing all the activities they have been doing to promote TDS at their school this spring. Before prom, an Army recruiter will deliver a "totaled" truck that was crashed by a drunk driver. The truck will be placed on the campus lawn as a safe-driving reminder. Short presentations will be given, and students will have the opportunity to use the "beer goggles." The TDS team will also put "notices" on student cars. If the notices are returned, students will receive a TDS key chain. In May, the NHS SHAC will have a booth at the Junior High Field Day and will hand out TDS materials. They will talk to students about being safe drivers and safe passengers.

- **Yates High School** in Houston ISD planned to celebrate the Boys Basketball team winning the 4A state title with a parade on April 18. The new TDS team at Yates HS marched with the TDS banner and promoted the program during the parade.

- **Reagan High School** in Houston ISD has been wearing their TDS jerseys to promote the program. Additionally, Reagan focused

on TDS activities during the week leading up to prom on May 8.

- **Austin High School** in Houston ISD joined TDS through Communities in Schools. Austin High School TDS teens made sure to spread the message before their prom on May 8.

- **MacArthur High School** in Aldine ISD held TDS activities for seniors during TAKS testing during the week of April 27-30.

- **Shepherd High School** attended the first Houston-Area Regional Roundup. This new school is ready to start the TDS program.

- **Kempner High School** in Fort Bend ISD joined TDS after visiting with TDS representatives in Corpus Christi at the TASC conference.

- **Hightower High School's** (Fort Bend ISD) FCCLA group joined TDS in April.

San Antonio TDS Reps. Russell Henk, Krizia Martinez & Kathy Montemayor

- Before spring break, **Taft High School** students in San Antonio, Texas, put "dum-dums" on everyone's vehicle, saying, "Don't be a dum-dum. Buckle up." They also put TDS air fresheners on all vehicles in the parking lot. Students will pass out TDS pencils during the TAKS test.

- **La Vernia High School** in La Vernia, Texas, participated in a school safety week dedicating one day per risk factor and were highlighted in two local newspapers.

What's going on in your area?



The Littlefield High School TDS team has been very active with their program.



Kylie Kinsolving and Crawford Higgins spoke at the Click It or Ticket press conference at McAllen High School.



Marsha Anderson-Bomar and Cara Tripodis at the Regional SADD Traffic Safety Event.

- **La Joya High School** in La Joya, Texas, tied green ribbons on trees, made awareness ribbons, designed TDS La Joya shirts, hung a huge TDS banner in the cafeteria with a coffin displayed during lunch time, hung posters around campus, had a wrecked car brought to the front of the school, had a poster pledge and passed out information printed on bookmarks.

- **Brackenridge High School** in San Antonio, Texas, was chosen as one of the TxDOT Click It or Ticket campaign schools and hosted a media event May 6.

- **Littlefield High School** in Littlefield, Texas did a safety belt check last fall, made safety announcements and had an assembly regarding safe driving.

- During the week of Jan. 18-24, **Anton High School's** TDS program in Anton, Texas, had a teen safe driving week to make their peers aware of the risk factors associated with teen driving.

- **McAllen High School** in McAllen, Texas, hosted a TxDOT Click It or Ticket media event on April 24.

- **McAllen Memorial High School** in McAllen, Texas, started the TDS program.

- **Coronado High School** in Lubbock, Texas, is a second-year school with the TDS program.

- **Sharyland High School** in Mission, Texas, is working with their FCCLA program to

run the TDS program at their school.

- **Stevens High School** in San Antonio, Texas, is brainstorming TDS project ideas that they can deploy during graduation.

Out of State

Connecticut
TDS Reps. **Bernie Fette & Russell Henk**

- Students from **Bristol Eastern** and **Bristol Central High Schools** recently hosted an Easter egg hunt directed by the Easter bunny, who was wearing a TDS shirt. The person who found the golden egg won a TDS shirt.

Students from both schools are planning on making a paper chain in TDS colors with 3,000 links per school, to symbolize the 6,000 teens that die each year from car crashes. Students have taken pictures for "Where in the World is TDS" in front of ESPN headquarters and Mark Twain's house. They are also planning a crashed car display for prom and a wheelchair race in their gym where participants will have to go through an obstacle course while texting on their cell phones. A recognition event for the two high schools' TDS teams at the Connecticut State Capitol is being planned for June.

- **Bristol Eastern** and **Bristol Central High Schools** have reached out to a private school, **St. Paul Catholic High School**, and are helping them adopt the Teens in the Driver Seat program.

California
TDS Reps. **Russell Henk & Krizia Martinez**

- On March 19-21, TDS representatives Russell Henk and Krizia Martinez exhibited at the 57th Annual California Association of Safety Educators (CASE) Conference in Sacramento, California, to safety professionals, driver's education instructors and other professionals.

- **Franklin High School** and **Mammoth Lakes High School** have been identified to participate in the TDS pilot project.

- Russell Henk is working with the California Office of Traffic of Safety leadership to make the TDS program statewide in California.

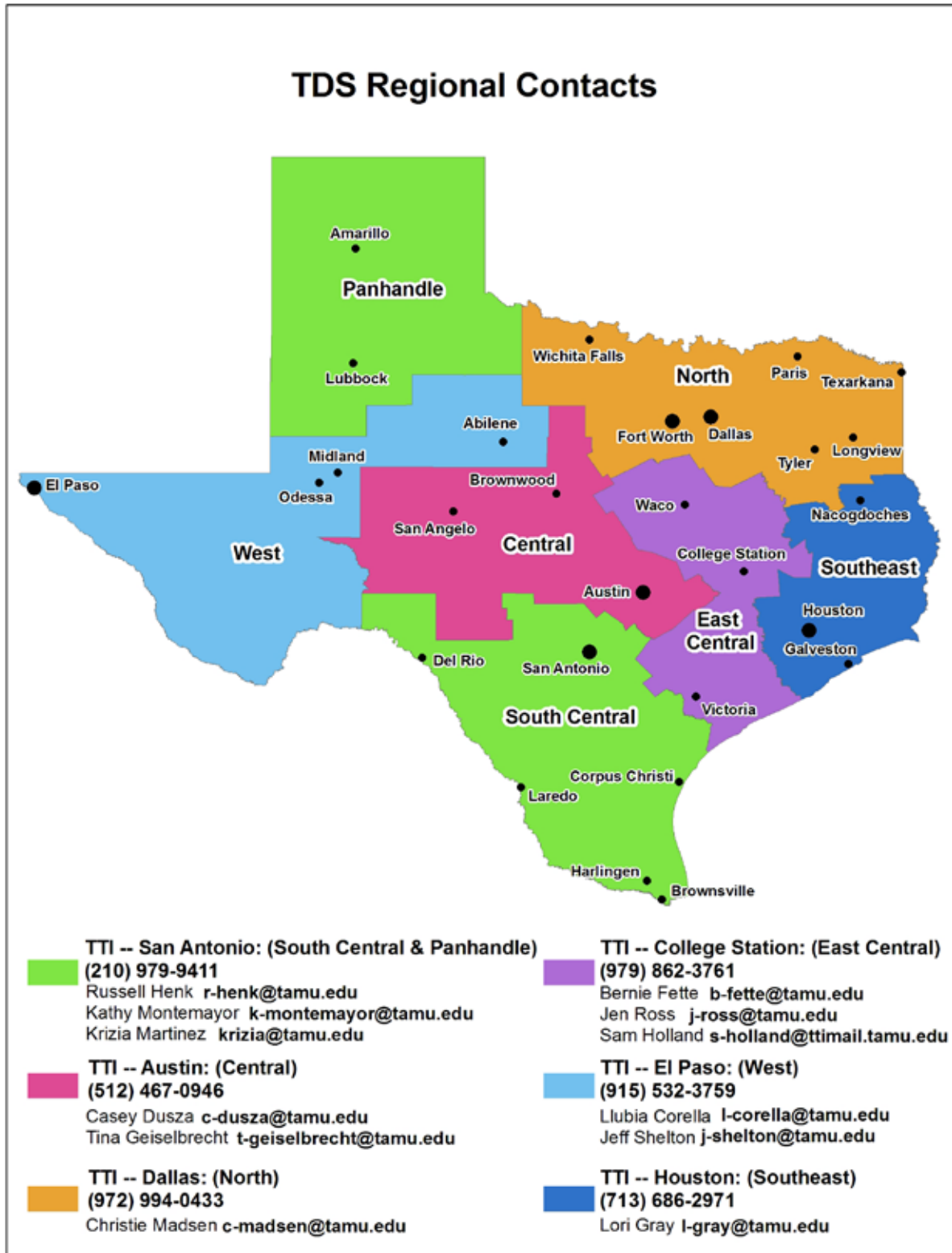
Georgia
TDS Reps. **Russell Henk, Christie Madsen & Marsha Anderson-Bomar**

- On March 10-12, Christie Madsen, Russell Henk and Marsha Anderson-Bomar met with schools and local leaders in the Atlanta region. Also, TDS materials were given to the FCCLA-Georgia state headquarters office.

- Anderson-Bomar exhibited at a Regional SADD Traffic Safety Event at the Gwinnett Arena, where she met Cara Tripodis, who is competing for Miss Georgia Outstanding Teen and is using teen driving safety as her platform. She will be including TDS in her speeches.

- The newest TDS school in Georgia is **Cedar Grove High School**.

Was this the first year your school worked with the TDS program? Did you know you can join the program each year? You can get additional promotional items and assistance from your TDS regional rep each year. You can also be recognized as an outstanding school each year if you complete all of the steps on the Implementation Agreement. After you get back from summer break, just contact your regional rep and he or she can help you get started. Next year, there will be a whole new class of freshmen that may not have heard the TDS message yet – be sure to spread the word and help save lives!



Do you know teens who want to start TDS? Do you have an update to share? Does your TDS group need assistance? If so, find your location on the map and contact your regional coordinator. For out-of-Texas contacts, please contact Russell Henk or Bernie Fette.

The teen perspective

Nadine Bonewitz — La Vernia High School, La Vernia, Texas

More than 6,000 teens die every year in car accidents. Five hundred of those occur within Texas, and in recent months, it seems as if La Vernia has contributed to that statistic. In actuality, the students and teachers have had to cope with five deaths associated with car crashes, and for us, that has been five deaths too many. In hopes of putting a stop to this, the students implemented the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program last week, to educate students and the community about the most common causes of teen car crashes.



Nadine is a freshman at La Vernia High School.

A wrecked car with the TDS banner was placed across from the parking lot exit. Each day of the week was themed toward a danger of driving. Blackout Monday was to teach students about the leading cause of accidents — driving at night. A sea of black engulfed the hallways as 419 students wore black shirts. Tuesday, red day, was to remind students not to text and drive - the leading distraction for teens. Three hundred seventy-two students wore red to remind themselves and others that they shouldn't have "read the text." When headed to their cars after school, students were surprised to see Big Distraction strolling the parking lot, checking out who was using a cell phone while exiting.

Wednesday, yellow day, 301 students wore yellow as a 'warning sign' not to speed. Thursday, belt day, was used for an obvious reason — to teach students to wear their seatbelts. Four hundred fifty-one students wore their favorite belts on Thursday. Friday, students were told to wear their La Vernia blue because "we don't want to be blue over you," as we have had to be with so many others recently. Each day was sponsored by a class or campus organization. Mornings started with announcements from class presidents, who motivated not only their class, but all the others, to participate in the campaign. Those who did received a TDS pencil, pen, keychain, decal, or air freshener.

With the week behind us, students have learned to take driving more seriously. We have learned about the risks associated with driving and how important it is to comply with rules and regulations. Hopefully, with the help of this program, our students and teachers can avoid any more heartbreaking and devastating losses.

Annette Luna — Irvin High School, El Paso, Texas

One Friday morning, my mom and I were running really late to work and school. So in order to help my mom out, I called one of my friends to take me to school so my mom could just go straight to work. I didn't realize I hadn't shut my door right so when we made a turn inside my apartment complex, the door flew open and I reached for it. So the one day that I didn't wear my seat belt I fell out as I reached for the door. I just remember blacking out and waking up in the hospital. I was in ICU for a couple of days with a fractured skull and a small bleed in my brain.

This was a really bad experience; I couldn't even feed myself or get up to use the restroom. It just happened so fast, we hadn't even driven out of my apartments and I was seriously injured, all because I was in too much of a hurry to even think about wearing my seat belt.

I am a cheerleader, so I ended up not being able to cheer for the rest of the semester because of my head injury. I get frequent headaches and a lot of dizziness. This prevents me from doing many things. This whole accident even affected my grades. I missed two and a half weeks including all my finals. So it took a while to get those grades back up and do all of the make-up work. Not many people know how important a seat belt is, even if it's going somewhere so close they choose not to wear it. Look what happened to me — I was in the truck for only three minutes and I was seriously injured. I most definitely know the first thing I do when I get in a vehicle is to buckle up. Unfortunately, I had to learn the hard way.



Annette is a senior at Irvin High School.

Second annual TDS summit

The second annual Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Summit will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, in El Paso, Texas, at the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Administrative Services Center. This one-day event will begin around 9:00 a.m. and end by 4:00 p.m.

Please visit the TDS Summit website <http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tds09/> for more details. Online registration will be available soon, with a discounted rate for “early bird” registrations. An e-mail listserv notice will be sent out once the registration form is ready. If you have not already signed up to be on the listserv, you can sign up at <https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=teensinthedriverseat&A=1>

This one-day event will be similar to the inaugural TDS Summit held last October in San Antonio, Texas. A sample of last year’s program and presentations is available at <http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tds08/program/>. If you are interested in speaking, sponsoring or exhibiting at the 2009 TDS Summit, please e-mail [Kathy Montemayor](mailto:Kathy.Montemayor@tti.tamu.edu).



Director's corner

While we are deeply disappointed that we had to cancel the inaugural TDS Day at the Capitol due to H1N1 flu (swine flu) concerns, it does not diminish the magnitude of your accomplishments this school year. We are still celebrating - albeit from a distance - the 30 Outstanding Schools, 13 Teen Advisory Board members, 7 Sponstars, and Driving the Message contest winners. Please know that we are working to distribute each well-deserved award to each winning school, student and teacher sponsor before the end of the school year.

We hope you have marked your calendar and begun to make plans to join us in El Paso, Texas, for the second annual Teens in the Driver Seat Summit on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Please visit the summit website (<http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tds09/>) for more information. Registration will be available soon, and “early birds” will get discounted pricing. Please keep checking the website to sign up!

While the school year is almost over, please be careful in your own upcoming celebrations. Prom, graduation and other end-of-the-school year activities can often end in tragedy, but they can be prevented. Continue to spread the word about the top driving risks — driving at night, speeding/racing, distractions, not buckling up and alcohol — and help prevent devastating crashes.

Thank you to all of our TDS schools, students and teacher sponsors for making a difference and helping to save lives! We would also like to thank our sponsors, the Texas Department of Transportation and State Farm Insurance of Texas, for their continued support of the TDS program.

Watch for our next edition in early October. Have a great summer and stay safe!

My best to you,
Russell Henk



Russell Henk,
TDS Director



Bernie Fette,
Director of TDS Public
Affairs

Newest TDS Schools

- Anahuac High School (Anahuac, Texas)
- Anderson-Shiro High School (Anderson, Texas)
- Athens High School (Athens, Texas)
- Atlanta High School (Atlanta, Texas)
- Austin High School (Houston, Texas)
- Bowie High School (Arlington, Texas)
- Brewer High School (Fort Worth, Texas)
- Byron Steele High School (Schertz, Texas)
- Coppell High School (Coppell, Texas)
- Coronado High School (Lubbock, Texas)
- Donna High School (Donna, Texas)
- Ellison High School (Killeen, Texas)
- Fayetteville High School (La Grange, Texas)
- Flatonia Secondary School (La Grange, Texas)
- Gatesville High School (Gatesville, Texas)
- Graham High School (Graham, Texas)
- Gregory-Portland High School (Portland, Texas)
- Hightower High School (Missouri City, Texas)
- Kemper High School (Sugarland, Texas)
- Kolarik 9th Grade Center (Channelview, Texas)
- La Grange High School (La Grange, Texas)
- La Vernia High School (La Vernia, Texas)
- Lee High School (San Antonio, Texas)
- MacArthur High School (Houston, Texas)
- MacArthur High School (Irving, Texas)
- Malakoff High School (Malakoff, Texas)
- McAllen High School (McAllen, Texas)
- McAllen Memorial High School (McAllen, Texas)
- Midlothian High School (Midlothian, Texas)
- Northwest High School (Justin, Texas)
- Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School (San Juan, Texas)
- Plano East High School (Plano, Texas)
- Reagan High School (Houston, Texas)
- Round Top-Carmine High School (La Grange, Texas)
- San Elizario High School (San Elizario, Texas)
- Sanger High School (Sanger, Texas)
- Schulenburg Secondary School (La Grange, Texas)
- Sharyland High School (Mission, Texas)
- Shepherd High School (Shepherd, Texas)
- Smyer High School (Smyer, Texas)
- University School (Irving, Texas)
- Willowridge High School (Houston, Texas)
- Yates High School (Houston, Texas)

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Calendar

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| May 25 | Memorial Day |
| June 10-13 | COLLEGE STATION, Texas – 4-H Round-Up |
| June 21 | Father's Day |
| July 4 | Independence Day |
| August 4-5 | DALLAS, Texas – FCSTAT Annual Educational Exhibit Show |
| August 12-14 | SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Save a Life Summit |
| August 30-September 2 | SAVANNAH, Georgia – GHSA Annual Meeting |
| September 7 | Labor Day |
| October 22-25 | DESERT SPRINGS, California – AASHTO Annual Meeting |
| November 14 | EL PASO, Texas – Second annual TDS Summit |

