

## And the winner is...

The 2010 Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Driving the Message Contest has come to an end, and the winners are in! This year there were a total of 112 entries.

In the poster category first place went to **Renata Gonzales** from Communications Arts

High School with "Death Comes in Many Forms." Second place went to **Jenna Newton** of MacArthur High School with "Cut Out of the Picture." **Angel Ortiz** from Ysleta High School took home third place for "Death Is Waiting."

In the video/PSA category first place went to Megan Shudde, Kristopher Garza, Raven DeLeon and Kaitlyn Munoz from **Communications Arts High School** with their entry, "Time and Place for Everything." Second place went to the **Creekview High School Leadership Class** (Daniel An, Jeremy Beasley, Kyle Bennett, Taylor Berry, Kate Buchanan, Jin Cha, Stephen Eppling, Marrium Faiyaz, Janay Ford, Brooke Goodspeed, Jessica Gray, Courtney Green, Hannah Green, Sana Hamirani, Corey Henry, Dimekia Hicks, Nicholas Ibarra, Jennifer Kim, Yohan Kim, Misty Lopez, Zohra Mavani, Andre Mccoy, Molly McGuire, Desire Ogueri, Allison Petty, Jerry So, Christina Solomon, Janine Sultana, Erik Swenson, Alaura Sylvis, Jessica Turner, Ryan Weaver and Leonard Williams) for their entry, "6,000." Jared Beavers from **MacArthur High School** took home third place with "Last Call."

In the program-description category first

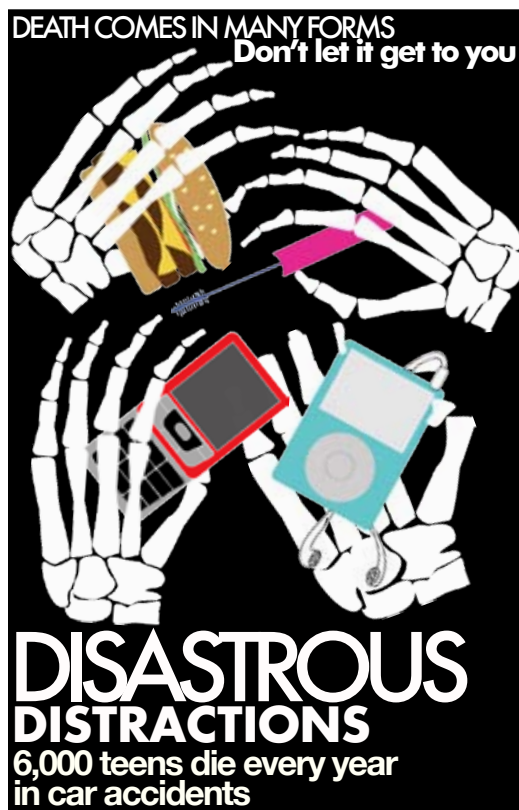
place went to the **Creekview High School Leadership Class** (Daniel An, Jeremy Beasley, Kyle Bennett, Taylor Berry, Kate Buchanan, Jin Cha, Stephen Eppling, Marrium Faiyaz, Janay Ford, Brooke Goodspeed, Jessica Gray, Courtney Green, Hannah Green, Sana Hamirani, Corey Henry, Dimekia

Hicks, Nicholas Ibarra, Jennifer Kim, Yohan Kim, Misty Lopez, Zohra Mavani, Andre Mccoy, Molly McGuire, Desire Ogueri, Allison Petty, Jerry So, Christina Solomon, Janine Sultana, Erik Swenson, Alaura Sylvis, Jessica Turner, Ryan Weaver and Leonard Williams). **Vidal M. Trevino's TDS Club** (Alberto Torres, Jr., Oscar Cortez, Jr., Tannya Benavides, Mario A. Flores, Stephanie Perales, Berlyn Vasquez, Jennifer Benavides, Monica Escobedo, Karla Ramirez, Mayra Ramos and Linda Rodriguez) took home second place, and third place went to **Winnsboro High School Family,**

Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students Colton Wood and Ryan Zimmerman.

Judges were from State Farm Insurance, Sherry Matthews Marketing, ThinkStreet, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Transportation Institute.

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all of those who participated. Check out the entries on the [official contest page \(http://t-driver.com/contests/2010-driving-the-message-contest/\)](http://t-driver.com/contests/2010-driving-the-message-contest/).



Renata Gonzales won first place in the poster category with this poster, "Death Comes in Many Forms."

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## Driving laws and TDS produce a “one-two punch”

Teen fatal crashes in Garland, Texas, are down due to the combination of Texas' graduated driver license (GDL) law and the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program.

Researchers from the Texas Transportation Institute announced the findings of a case study Feb. 17 in Garland, Texas.

The researchers reviewed driver behavior and crash statistics in Garland and Mesquite, Texas, during two periods: from 2002 through 2005, and 2006 through 2009. While both cities experienced improvements during the study period, those in Garland were more dramatic:

- The number of teen crash fatalities in Garland dropped from 9 to 1. The number in Mesquite fell from 4 to 2
- The percentage of all crashes that involved a teen driver in Garland dropped from 28 percent to 16 percent. In Mesquite, that percentage fell from 24 percent to 22 percent.
- In addition, Garland teens demonstrated higher seatbelt use and lower cell-phone use behind the wheel than their counterparts in Mesquite.

Researchers attribute the improvements to a combination of two factors: the state's graduated driver license law — which places restrictions on drivers for the first year that they hold a license — and the Teens in the Driver Seat program, which is designed to reinforce the GDL law through peer influence. The TDS program has been active in all of Garland's seven high schools since 2006, whereas the program is not active in Mesquite.

“The GDL law gives us an essential foundation,” said State Rep. Joe Driver, one of the original authors of the law. “But the law can be made more effective by creative efforts like Teens in the Driver Seat. Together, they give us a one-two punch that works very well.”

Read the [full press release \(http://t-driver.com/2010/02/22/garland%E2%80%99s-teen-drivers-show-significant-safety-improvements/\)](http://t-driver.com/2010/02/22/garland%E2%80%99s-teen-drivers-show-significant-safety-improvements/).



From left to right - TDS Director Russell Henk, TTI Director Dennis Christiansen, Jaywin Malhi, Dorothy White, Brianda Reyes, State Representative Joe Driver, and Senior Managing Director of Transportation and Engineering for the City of Garland, Robert Wunderlich.



Teen Advisory Board member Brianda Reyes is interviewed by a local news station.



TTI Director Dennis Christiansen, Teen Advisory Board members Jaywin Malhi and Brianda Reyes, and State Rep. Joe Driver were all speakers at the Garland news conference.



State Representative Joe Driver was one of the original authors of the graduated driver licensing law in 2001.

# Calling all teens! Be a leader in saving teen lives!

Do you want to be a leader in saving teen lives? Here's your chance! Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) is looking for teens to be a part of the second TDS Teen Advisory Board.

The term of the TDS Teen Advisory Board will be from May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2011.

So what will TDS Teen Advisory Board members do?

- Participate in monthly meetings, as well as respond promptly to periodic e-mail requests for input and feedback.
- Attend at least one quarterly meeting.
- Attend the annual Teens in the Driver Seat Summit (usually held in October or November of each year).
- Actively try to organize a TDS program at your local high school and at neighboring schools in your community.
- Assist in organizing program-oriented events and activities.
- Actively promote the TDS website and participate in online discussions (e.g., blogs).
- Provide feedback, ideas and opinions on new program materials, safety messages, promotional items and related elements.
- Provide ideas and insight on how to continue to successfully engage teens and sustain their interest in the TDS program.
- Serve as an ambassador/leader for Teens in the Driver Seat, leading by example.

If you are tired of hearing about teen traffic deaths, this is your chance to change the way your peers drive. If you don't like the attitude your friends have about driving, this is your opportunity to lead by example.

Teens between the ages of 15 and 17 and enrolled in high school (public, private or home school) are encouraged to apply for the TDS Teen Advisory Board. You must be willing to commit to a minimum of one meeting a month by conference call, by web meeting or in person, as well as respond quickly to e-mail requests for feedback on different subjects.

So how do you get involved? Go online and fill out the [application](http://t-driver.com/2010-2011-teen-advisory-board-application/). The application deadline is **April 2, 2010**.



**Have YOU started a TDS program at YOUR school?**  
**If not, find out HOW to start TDS today [HERE](http://www.t-driver.com/start/)**  
**(<http://www.t-driver.com/start/>)**

## Nominate your amazing teacher/sponsor for a SponStar award

Is your teacher or sponsor awesome, supportive and award worthy? Nominate him or her for a SponStar award! SponStars are teachers or sponsors that make a difference to teens through their work with the Teens in the Driver Seat program.

A teacher or sponsor is defined as a non-student adult that is assisting students with their TDS program. Examples of individuals that qualify would be a teacher, school administrator, counselor or group leader (e.g., FCCLA, 4-H, etc.).

The deadline for nominations is 5:00 p.m. CST Friday, **April 9, 2010**. TDS regional representatives can assist with nominations for those who do not have Internet access. For more information and the nomination form, go to <http://t-driver.com/about/sponstar/nominate-your-sponstar/>.



## Wanna win a free iTunes gift card?

Just follow these three easy steps...

1. Got to t-driver.com,
2. Post a comment on any Back Talk blog post,
3. and you're automatically entered to win a FREE iTunes gift card!

It's that simple!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Sam Holland at [s-holland@ttimail.tamu.edu](mailto:s-holland@ttimail.tamu.edu).

**Post a comment on Back Talk  
for your chance to win an  
iTunes gift card**



# What's going on in your area?



Celena De La Cruz, Arlette Fernandez, Joe Villarreal from C.C. Winn High School show their TDS spirit.

## Austin TDS Rep. Casey Dusza & Christie Madsen Bellamy

• **Brady High School** had a Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Week:

– Tuesday: They did morning announcements, and provided statistics about teen driving, and their message for the day was about driving at night/tired. They handed out Smarties and Dum Dums saying “Be a Smartie and know about teen driving” and “Don’t be a Dum Dum; get your facts right.” They also read a poem done Paul Harvey–style. They read bits and pieces throughout the week.

– Wednesday: They did morning announcements and provided more statistics; their message was about speeding and teen distractions. They went out to the student and teacher parking lot and provided them with antenna balls and streamers that were green and black. Then they did a Paul Harvey poem.

– Thursday: They did morning announcements, provided statistics and shared the message about buckling up. They handed out pencils and pens, encouraging students to “Get it write!” Then they did a Paul Harvey poem.

– Friday: They did morning announcements. They finished the Paul Harvey story. They had the art department make origami flowers (green and black), and they dedicated the flowers to people who had lost their lives due to one of the five risks. They placed these in the middle hallway. Their message was about

drinking and driving. They had students sign a TDS shirt and had a drawing to give it to a student. They had students pledge about knowing the consequences of drinking and driving. They gave out key chains and tattoos. Their team wore their shirts all day. At the end of the day they had a moment of silence for the friends they had lost.

• **Bronte High School** combined Red Ribbon Week and Teens in the Driver Seat Week. They had dress-up days and gave numbered bracelets to teens. The students dressed up, and the number called for that day won a \$10 Walmart gift card. On that Friday (which was Halloween) they described scenarios of how students or teachers died due to the high risks noted by TDS and drugs and driving. They also put an X on their face and a sign around their neck describing their death. Then, the cheerleaders did a skit during the pep rally for student council regarding the deaths and bringing them back to life through “Longhorn Spirit.”

• **Ballinger High School** took part in many activities concerning Teens in the Driver Seat. They made a dark hallway and gave away a jar of candy at home football games including a Teens in the Driver Seat card. They made many posters and banners with safety slogans. They gave away candy canes at Christmas with a message attached about driving safely, and they also passed out Life Savers with seatbelt safety messages attached to them. They gave presentations to several classes and after-school programs. They also had a huge project with an

appearance by the grim reaper.

• **Hutto High School’s** TDS team members wore signs that had messages like “I was killed because I was texting,” and it really spread the message about distracted driving effectively. They are also working on projects for a safe prom week.

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

• **Huntsville High School’s** Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) group signed on with TDS in January. They have completed assessments and are using TDS for their FACTS program for FCCLA.

• **Columbus High School’s** TDS team is using school morning announcements to spread the word about the dangers of teen driving. On the second Tuesday of each month, safe-driving messages, courtesy of the TDS team, are a part of the morning announcements. The team also regularly sets up a table in the school cafeteria to educate their peers about how to drive smarter.

• Ethan Boer from **Brenham High School** entered the Driving the Message Contest public service announcement (PSA) category with his entry, “Was It Worth It?”

• **Gatesville High School** is holding a teen safe-driving day April 13 in preparation for prom. TDS Rep. Sam Holland will exhibit at the event.



C.C. Winn High School TDSers  
Patty Negrete, Celena De La Cruz,  
Joe Villarreal, Stephanie Fletcher

# What's going on in your area?

## Dallas - Fort Worth TDS Rep. Jen Ross

- **Brock High School** has signed on for the third year with TDS.
- **Lakeview Centennial High School** completed the pre-assessment for the 2009-2010 school year. Students used Teens in the Driver Seat as part of their District Occupational Health and Safety Competition. This is their third year to compete using TDS as their project.
- **Mount Enterprise High School** signed on to the TDS program for the third year.
- January was a sad month for **Winfree High School** students. The Denton campus had three students (current and former) who were killed in traffic crashes the first week of January. Due to the tragedies, the school has been giving safety reminders each Friday at their school assemblies and created their own driving-awareness survey. The students have posted a chart tallying up the number of teen traffic-related fatalities in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. One student even created a large three-dimensional poster that hangs in the school's hallways to remind students of the dangers they face behind the wheel. The poster was submitted as part of the TDS Driving the Message Contest.
- **Dublin High School** signed on to the TDS program for a second year.
- **Millsap High School** signed on to the TDS program for a third year.

- **Saginaw High School** signed on to the TDS program for its first year. The school's leadership class is taking on the project and has started by passing out the TDS pre-assessment.
- FCCLA students at the Granbury Region 2 Meeting and the Plano Region 3 Meeting heard more about TDS and had the opportunity to sign up to receive more information.
- Students from **Argyle High School** heard more about the TDS program at the Argyle Community Health Fair.
- **Cooper High School's** FCCLA chapter kicked off its program Feb. 16 due to a senior who was racing and passed away. The group has decided that every 16th of the month they plan to promote safe driving by planning some activity. They are also working with the junior high school to kick off a junior high school program with the student council.
- **Lindale High School** completed its pre-assessments.
- **Duncanville High School's** FCCLA members worked on TDS as part of their community project. They handout out promo items in the parking lot in support of safe teen driving.
- **Sulphur Bluff High School** decorated a Christmas tree with promotional items at their high school. They plan on having students wear green bracelets on St. Patrick's Day in support of TDS.

- Students from the Garland Youth Council and **North Garland, Garland, Sachse, Naaman Forest and Lakeview Centennial High Schools** exhibited at the TDS Garland Firewheel event.

## El Paso TDS Reps. Llubia Corella, Lupe Ramos & Jeff Shelton

- **Irving High School** hosted a table display during one of the basketball games Feb. 9. They passed out their own survey about the new Texas laws. This information is going to be used to tailor their education efforts in the school to emphasize the least-known topic regarding the new laws. Promotional items and prizes were passed out during the event.



Irvin High School hosted a TDS table display during a basketball game.



Colorado High School's TDS teacher/sponsor Judy Merrell, Joanna Parsons, Tabbatha Angelo, and TDS Rep. Jeff Shelton.

- **Stanton High School** hosted a Teens in the Driver Seat presentation Jan. 25. Area high schools as well as community organizations were invited to attend. Schools in attendance were **Colorado High School, Early College High School Pathways, Iraan High School, Lee High School, Midland High School and Stanton High School.** Several high schools were recruited to join TDS.

# What's going on in your area?

## Houston TDS Rep. Lori Gray

- First-year schools: **Kempner High School, Magnolia Junior High School, Eisenhower High School, Brookeland Junior High School, Pearland High School, San Augustine High School and Clear Creek High School** have joined TDS.

- Second-year schools: **Splendor, Reagan, Central Heights and Martinsville High Schools** have joined TDS.

- Third-year school: **Angleton High School** has joined TDS.

- Texas Association of Future Educators at **Robert E. Lee High School** in Baytown, Texas, (TAFE@REL) members who are on the TDS team recently

attended a TAFE Region IV meeting at the M.O. Campbell Center in Houston, where they presented a workshop to other TAFE members across the region to make them aware of the TDS program and how its goals are pertinent to future educators. TAFE@REL feels that all educators should be involved with the local community that they teach in and participate in its endeavors.

- **TAFE @ REL** also had a special presenter, Mr. Leone, who years ago was injured seriously by a teenage driver. His testimony and video presentation were well received and brought validity to the goals of TDS. From a different perspective came the thought that teenagers could

be involved in accidents that leave someone else mangled and crushed for life! Mr. Leone's body may have been crushed, but his attitude and spirit to survive were not!



Mr. Leone meeting with the students from Robert E. Lee High School

- The Houston-area region is preparing for their second annual Spring Roundup and all high schools in and around the Houston area (and those farther out) are invited to join on Saturday, March 27, to learn more about the program and how TDS is making a difference in Houston and the surrounding areas.

**Channelview High School** will be hosting this event. Please contact Lori Gray in the Houston office at 713-686-2971 or [L-Gray@tam.u.edu](mailto:L-Gray@tam.u.edu) for more information, or visit [www.t-driver.com/Houston-Roundup](http://www.t-driver.com/Houston-Roundup).

- **Angleton High School's** FCCLA chapter included TDS during FCCLA week at their school. Along with placing an ad on the back of the school's newspaper, The Tattler, FCCLA members held presentations in the cafeteria, displayed a wrecked car, announced a tip of the day, created a paper chain to represent how many teens die each year in car crashes, held a pledge campaign at the cafeteria booth, and hung

posters and a banner around the school.

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

- **Lamesa High School** in Lamesa, Texas, has been very active in TDS this year. Since November, one day a month, they have left students a note and a TDS item on their car to serve as a visible reminder of the top five major risk factors. They also held a distraction relay with local sportscaster, Pete Christy, highlighting the texting-while-driving distraction. They also had several guest speakers sharing their experiences with drinking and driving. Additionally, they focused their efforts on buckling up by collecting pledges throughout their community.

- On Feb. 12 and 13, Timothy Lai participated in the FCCLA Region I Leadership Meeting in Lubbock, Texas. There, about 500 FCCLA members in the region were introduced and exposed to TDS's driving message.

- Before Christmas break, the TDS leaders at **C.C. Winn High School** organized a pledge during all lunches where students had to promise not to drink and drive, text and drive, or speed, and to always wear their seatbelt. They collected over 200 names throughout the week. The C.C. Winn High School TDS committee also held a TDS informational booth at the school's annual parent conference explaining the statistics and how parents can help be part of the solution as well. The TDS committee is also producing a PSA that will



Samantha Williams and Taylor Treme along with project leader Travis Goss, presented at the TAFE workshop.

# What's going on in your area?



Weslaco High School TDS Team.

be aired on their local TV station.

- On Jan. 30, Timothy Lai participated in the TABC Project Celebration held at TransGuide in San Antonio, Texas.

There, Lai gave a short presentation to student representatives, advisors and parents of 31 high schools.

- On Jan. 29 and 30, Krizia Martinez exhibited a TDS booth in Corpus Christi for FCCLA Region 5.



Julian Contreras at Taft High School in Taft, Texas.

- The **City of Burleson's Teen Court Program** has integrated the Teens in the Driver Seat website as

part of their sentencing phase by getting the students to write about the site or a personal story about safe teen driving.

- As of March 3, **South San High School** in San Antonio is on board with the TDS program. They have received their items and started brainstorming their projects after listening to guest speaker Julian Contreras speak on the hazards of driving while intoxicated.

- Malarie Wells from **Weslaco High School** and a member of Teens in the Driver Seat placed as a runner-up in the National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS) Drive to Life PSA Challenge. She will receive a cash award for her placing. Great job, Malarie!

Additionally, Weslaco High School's TDS team submitted a project description for the Driving the Message Contest.

- On Jan. 26, **Canyon High School** kicked off the TDS program by having guest speaker Julian Contreras tell his story about drinking and driving to deter other students from making his mistakes.

- **La Vernia High School** is planning an event before spring break highlighting each risk factor and will be handing out promotional items to the students. Additionally, La Vernia High School submitted a PSA for the Driving the Message Contest.

- On Feb. 4, a guest speaker from the Teens in the Driver Seat program, Julian Contreras, gave four separate presentations at **Taft High School** in Taft, Texas. TDS FCCLA leaders promoted the events and gave out promotional materials and flyers to help get the safety message out.

- **Communications Arts High School** had more than 10 poster submissions and three different student groups working on video PSAs for this year's Driving the Message Contest.

- On Feb. 5, **Vidal M. Trevino's** Teens in the Driver Seat team hosted a "Keeping Our Drive Alive" campaign sponsored by Sheriff Martin Cuellar of the Webb County Sheriff's Office. UNITE Company from Michigan came to Laredo, Texas, to train students on how to use the drinking-and-driving

simulator and showed videos on the hazards of drinking and driving. Martin, Nixon, Cigarroa and St. Augustine High Schools were invited to participate.

- **Vidal M. Trevinio's** second annual TDS 5K Run was held March 7, and the ceremony began at 7 a.m. This year they had online registration and opened the run to cyclists as well.

- **La Joya High School** has been keeping very busy with its TDS program. They are putting together a mock



Vidal M. Trevino School of Communications and Fine Arts hosted a "Keeping Our Drive Alive" campaign.

accident and working with the fire department and other local community members to help create a PSA for safe teen-driving awareness. They are also starting to plan the events for their spring safety campaign, which will include a buckle-up day and other days designated specifically for each risk factor.

- **McAllen High School** submitted a TDS video made with help from the community for the Driving the Message Contest.

# What's going on in your area?



Malarie Wells from Weslaco High School placed in the Drive to Life PSA Challenge.

## Out of State

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

- **Bristol Eastern and Central High Schools** have recruited a number of local community leaders to serve as an advisory board to support the TDS Bristol programs through fundraising and other activities. Also, Ali Read, a senior at Bristol Eastern High School, was featured in a recent article about TDS on [ABCNews.com](http://abcnews.com) (<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/program-end-distracted-driving-sees-results/story?id=9990434>).
- The TDS team at **St. Paul High School** in Bristol, Conn., used their Winter Carnival in November to spread safety messages with a display and video driving contest. The school put a special focus on driving safety during a recent pep rally.
- **Immanuel Lutheran School** in Bristol has signed up to be the first TDS junior high school program in Connecticut.
- **Coginchaug High School** in Durham, Conn., is the newest TDS school in the state; students there completed the awareness/driving-behavior survey last month and will learn the results soon.
- **Haddam Killingworth High School** has received the results of its risk-awareness/driving-behavior survey. Their continued activity has included messages at basketball games, seatbelt checks and TDS team member visits to

driver-education classes.

- **Westbrook and Nathan Hale-Ray High Schools** are the latest high schools to show interest in starting TDS programs. Both are expected to get off the ground this spring.

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

- On March 24-27, Russell Henk and Krizia Martinez will be presenting and exhibiting at the National Service Learning Conference in San Jose, Calif.
- **Summit High School** has sent in its assessments and is planning its TDS projects for the spring.
- **Quincy High School** in Quincy, Calif., has completed its pre-surveys and is getting ready to launch a spring safety campaign.

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

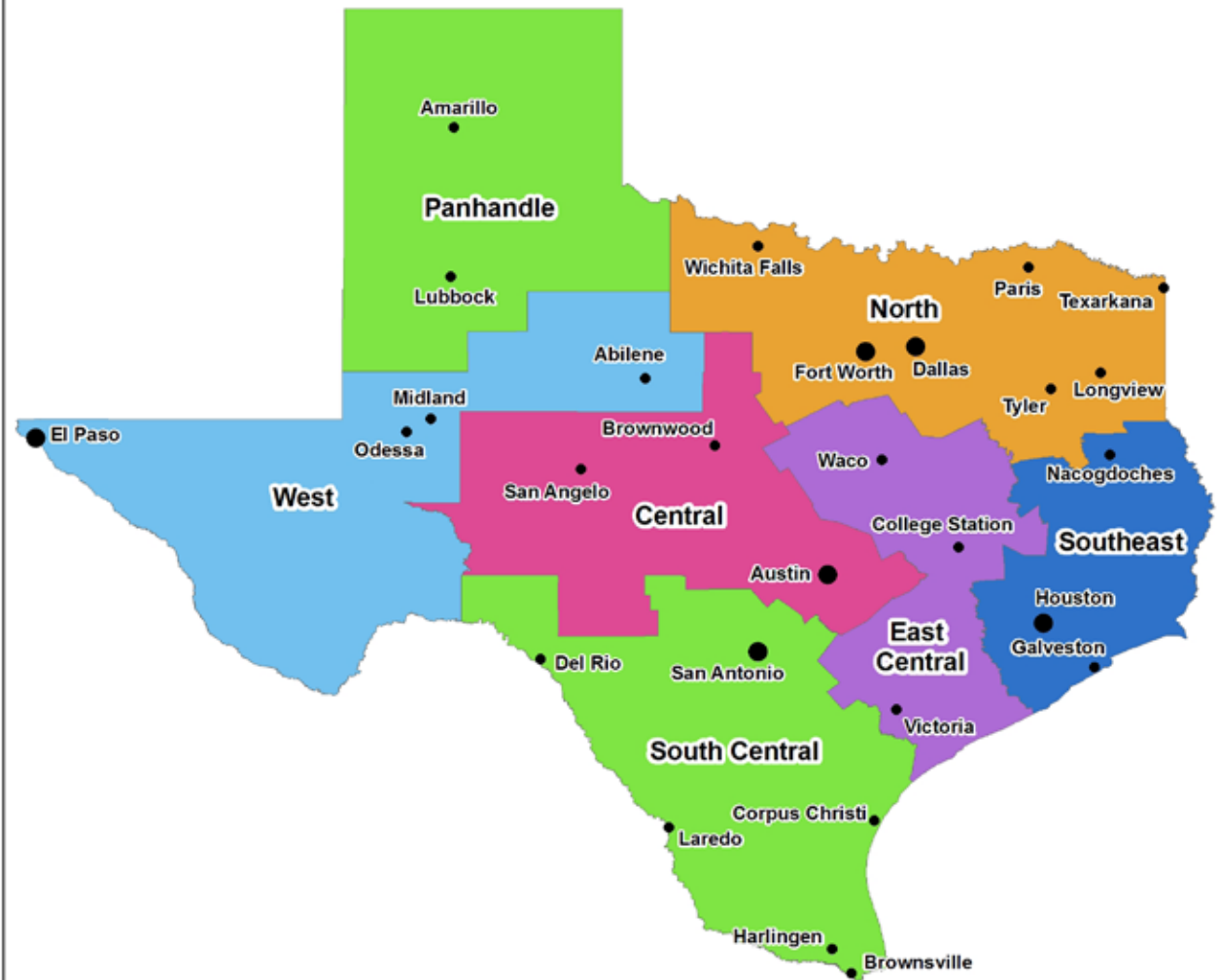
- The Teens in the Driver Seat Club at **Cedar Grove High School** is setting up an information booth with a display and is passing out TDS posters and flyers to get the top-five-risks safety message out.
- **The Gwinnett School of Math, Science and Technology** has joined TDS. The TDS team has been identified, and the members have already begun generating ideas for their first activities.

- **Bolton High School** in Arlington, Tenn., is introducing TDS through its FCCLA group for an entire week using the downloadable posters and out-of-state TDS banner.

### TDS Jr. High Updates

- **Bandera Middle School** in Bandera, Texas, will be performing another TDS skit at their next pep rally. Also, every morning over the announcements the students state driving-safety facts to keep the momentum going.
- **Fossum Middle School** in McAllen, Texas, is submitting poster entries for the contest. They are also watching videos during lunch highlighting alcohol prevention.
- Officer Rhonda Edmundson has been giving in-class presentations to **Lincoln Middle School** in McAllen, targeting the top five major risk factors for teen car crashes.
- At **Travis Middle School** in McAllen, promotional items are being passed out during in-class presentations to increase awareness of what passengers can do to make sure they are safe.

# TDS Regional Contacts



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|--|--|
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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.

## Director's corner

As we begin to thaw out from this long, cold winter, it is important to remember that in the spring we enter one of the most dangerous time periods for teenage drivers. It starts with a fun spring-break vacation, and before we know it, we are celebrating prom, graduation and other end-of-school-year activities. These celebratory times can often end in tragedy, but these tragedies can be prevented. There is still time to spread the word about the top driving risks —driving at night, speeding/racing, distractions (like texting and too many teen passengers), not buckling up and alcohol — and help prevent devastating crashes.

We just announced the winners (<http://t-driver.com/contests/2010-driving-the-message-contest/>) of the third annual Driving the Message Contest. This year's contest was another success with 112 entries — including our first entry from a middle school! Thank you for continuing to share your ideas and creativity with us. We are always impressed by your work. Congratulations to all of our winners! Thank you also to our sponsors, the Texas Department of Transportation and State Farm Insurance of Texas, for continuing to support the TDS program.

In addition, we still have several ways for you to continue to be involved in TDS, win prizes and also be recognized for your efforts:

- If you would like to have a stronger voice with the Teens in the Driver Seat program, we encourage you to apply for the 2010-2011 Teen Advisory Board. Your ideas and opinions are what make TDS so successful; plus, it can be a great item to add to your résumé. Applications (<http://t-driver.com/2010-2011-teen-advisory-board-application/>) are due by Friday, April 2.
- Wanna be famous? We are highlighting TDSers of the Month on our homepage. Visit <http://tds.tticomdev.com/tow/form.php> to nominate yourself or a friend.
- Sign up to get safety messages from Teens in the Driver Seat by texting "idrive" to 69302. Then, forward these messages to your friends to help them stay safe!
- Post a comment on the Back Talk blog and you'll be entered to win an iTunes gift card. Visit <http://t-driver.com/back-talk/back-talk-itunes/> for more details.
- If your teacher/sponsor is instrumental in your TDS program, be sure to nominate him or her for a Sponstar award (<http://t-driver.com/about/sponstar/nominate-your-sponstar/>) by Friday, April 9.

Again this year, we are planning to recognize impressive TDS groups — TDS Outstanding Schools, Sponstars, and the outgoing and new Teen Advisory Boards — during a special one-day event at the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas, in early May. We hope you qualify to join us for this special event. Invitations will be sent in April.

Also, it's not too early to begin making plans to join us in Dallas, Texas, for the third annual TDS Summit. Be watching online for more details. We hope to see you at the summit this fall!

While the school year is over halfway over, there are still a few months left to start the TDS program at your school. Find your regional contact on page 10 of this newsletter and let us know if we can help you get started or continue your TDS program. Thank you for continuing to make a difference by helping to save lives!

Watch for our next edition in May before summer vacation. Enjoy the rest of the school year, and stay safe!

My best to you,  
Russell Henk



Russell Henk,  
TDS Director



Bernie Fette,  
Director of TDS Public  
Affairs

# Newest TDS Schools

## NEWEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOLS

- Angleton High School (Angleton, Texas)
- Boy Scouts of America (Waco, Texas)
- Brock High School (Weatherford, Texas)
- Byron Steele High School (Cibolo, Texas)
- Caldwell High School (Caldwell, Texas)
- Central Heights High School (Nacogdoches, Texas)
- Clarendon High School (Clarendon City, Texas)
- Clear Creek High School (League City, Texas)
- Colorado High School (Colorado City, Texas)
- Connally High School (Waco, Texas)
- Dublin High School (Dublin, Texas)
- Early College High School (Midland, Texas)
- Eisenhower High School (Houston, Texas)
- Hamshire-Fannett High School (Hamshire, Texas)
- Harker Heights High School (Harker Heights, Texas)
- Iraan High School (Iraan, Texas)
- Kempner High School (Sugar Land, Texas)
- La Vernia High School (La Vernia, Texas)
- Lee High School (Midland, Texas)
- Martinsville School (Nacogdoches, Texas)
- Millsap High School (Millsap, Texas)
- Mission Early College High School (El Paso, Texas)
- Moody High School (Moody, Texas)
- Mount Enterprise High School (Mount Enterprise, Texas)
- Needville High School (Needville, Texas)
- Oglesby School (Oglesby, Texas)
- Palmview High School (Mission, Texas)
- Pearland High School (Pearland, Texas)

- Reagan High School (Houston, Texas)
- Riverside High School (El Paso, Texas)
- Saginaw High School (Ft. Worth, Texas)
- San Augustine High School (San Augustine, Texas)
- San Saba High School (San Saba, Texas)
- South San Antonio High School (San Antonio, Texas)
- Splendora High School (Splendora, Texas)
- Stanton High School (Stanton, Texas)
- Sweetwater High School (Sweetwater, Texas)

## NEWEST TEXAS TDS JR. HIGH SCHOOLS

- Brookeland Junior High School (Brookeland, Texas)
- Cathey Middle School (McAllen, Texas)
- Guillen Middle School (El Paso, Texas)
- Henderson Middle School (El Paso, Texas)
- Magnolia Junior High School (Magnolia, Texas)

## NEWEST OUT-OF-STATE HIGH SCHOOLS

- Bolton High School (Arlington, Tennessee)
- Bristol Central High School (Bristol, Connecticut)
- Bristol Eastern High School (Bristol, Connecticut)
- Coginchaug Regional High School (Durham, Connecticut)
- Crossroads 2nd Chance (Roswell, Georgia)
- Friday Night Live (Marysville, California)
- Haddam-Killingworth High School (Higganum, Connecticut)
- Mercy High School (Middletown, Connecticut)
- St. Paul Catholic High School (Bristol, Connecticut)

Go to [t-driver.com](http://t-driver.com) and find us on Facebook, Myspace and Youtube.



## Calendar

Teens in the Driver Seat will be exhibiting at these upcoming events:

March 29-31, 2010 Traffic Safety Conference, Dallas, Texas

April 8-10, 2010 Texas Association of Student Council's Conference, Arlington, Texas

April 8-10, 2010 FCCLA State Conference, Dallas, Texas

June 15-16, 2010 Coordinated School Health Institute Education Service Center 12 Meeting, Waco, Texas

Know of an event TDS should participate in? E-mail the info to [Jen Ross \(j-ross@tamu.edu\)](mailto:j-ross@tamu.edu)