



2025 CONFERENCE
MARCH 27-29
Bismarck, ND





WELCOME

WELCOME TO YOUR SPRING CONFERENCE,

On behalf of the NDDTSEA Executive Committee, I'd like to welcome each of you to the 2025 NDDTSEA conference. This important event is a time to learn as we come together and share information that is a valuable part of our continued education as individuals and as an association.

This is NDDTSEA's 54th conference since our existence as an organization. With your continued support and dedication, we have achieved many goals. We should all be very proud of how far we've come and where we are today as we strive to provide a level of quality that stands out from the crowd.

This conference is designed to provide an unbeatable learning experience across the state. We need to constantly challenge ourselves to excel in driver education as we continue to grow and improve the way we teach. Make sure you network with your fellow teachers as this is an opportunity to grow and learn from each other.

I'd like to thank each of you for attending our conference and bringing your expertise. You, as teachers, have the capability to mold our future adults and help pave their way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we cannot accomplish what we do without your commitment and dedication. Enjoy this conference. My personal respect and thanks go out to all of you.

Enjoy the conference!

Boyd Westman
NDDTSEA President

AGENDA

THURSDAY – March 27, 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE

1:00 PM
4:00 PM



Navigating the North Dakota Classroom Driver Education (NDCDE) Modules: A Hands-On Workshop – Room F

Presenters: Jon Dondoneau and Darin Bardal

This session offers participants a guided walkthrough of the essential NDCDE modules, equipping them to effectively use the platform in their driver education programs. Topics include completing forms, logging in, resetting passwords, creating accounts, accessing content and the gradebook, managing student submissions, completing students, and removing students. Required for both new and experienced users, this hands-on workshop provides practical tips and step-by-step guidance for navigating the NDCDE platform. Bring your device to work through these modules.

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5:00 PM
6:00 PM

Registration – Hotel Hallway by Rooms C/D

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THURSDAY – March 27, 2025

6:00 PM
6:30 PM



Welcome – Rooms C/D

Presenter: Mayor Michael Schmitz

Mayor Schmitz welcomes educators to the annual NDDTSEA Conference, celebrating the vital role teachers play in shaping youth development. This conference highlights the impact of educators in fostering essential skills and preparing students for success.

6:30 PM
8:30 PM



Dynamic Classroom Drills – Rooms C/D

Presenter: Prince Boparai

Facilitator: Jon Dondoneau

Behind the Wheel (BTW) is an extension of the classroom. The goal is for students to be able to apply what they've learned in the classroom when they reach BTW training. Developing fun and engaging classroom drills that set students up for BTW success is key. Prince will share some of his favorite classroom activities.

8:30 PM
9:30 PM



Using Simulators in the Classroom – Rooms C/D

Presenters: Darin Bardal and Jon Dondoneau

Driver education student simulators are virtual environments that mimic real-world driving scenarios. They help students develop critical driving skills in a safe and controlled environment. Simulators allow students to practice without compromising safety or equipment. These simulators expose students to various challenging and hazard-laden scenarios. This session will share ways to incorporate a simulator into your classroom training.



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7:30 AM **Registration – Hotel Hallway by Rooms C/D**
8:00 AM

8:00 AM **The First Drive – Rooms C/D**
10:00 AM Presenter: Prince Boparai
Facilitator: Thomas Johnson



The very first drive for a new student is intimidating and may present unique challenges for the instructor. Prince will share proven and tested strategies for a safe and efficient first hour with a brand new student that will increase the chances of success for both the student and instructor.

10:00 AM **Break**
10:15 AM

10:15 AM **Introducing North Dakota's New Standard in**
11:15 AM **Classroom Driver Education – Rooms C/D**
Presenters: Adrian Biewer and Jon Dondoneau



The NDSU-UGPTI has joined forces with a former NDSU Extension youth curriculum expert and NDDTSEA instructor experts to develop a North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Vision Zero Drivers Education course. During the session, we'll introduce a course that will become the standard in teen driver classroom instruction in the state. This modernized 30-hour course builds upon traditional rules-of-the-road instruction while incorporating



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regional considerations. Students will benefit from enhanced content covering winter driving techniques, safe interactions with agricultural vehicles, and navigation of complex intersections. The curriculum includes 24 hours of classroom instruction, plus six flexible hours for guest speakers, and hands-on learning such as the Vision Zero Driving Skills for Success modules. This will replace the decade old program and better prepare the next generation of North Dakota drivers.

11:15 AM **Vision Zero Update – Rooms C/D**
12:00 PM Presenter: Theresa Thom
Facilitator: Jon Dondoneau



Discover the latest updates on North Dakota's Vision Zero initiative and how you can play a role in reducing fatalities and serious injuries on the state's roadways. This session will provide insights into ongoing efforts, strategies, and opportunities for involvement to help create safer roads for all.

Lunch Provided – Rooms A/B



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1:00 PM
2:00 PM

Driver License Update – Rooms C/D

Presenters: Brad Schaffer and Rachel Mount



This question-and-answer session will cover topics to assist you with your BTW training. Topics covered will include but are not limited to:

- Upcoming changes with driver license division
- Problem areas where teachers need more focus with teens
- BTW testing

2:00 PM
3:00 PM

Evaluation and Route Development for Behind the Wheel – Room C/D

Presenter: Reggie Flythe
Facilitator: Jon Dondoneau



This session is designed for driving schools and driver education instructors seeking to standardize the evaluation of student drivers. Attendees will learn how to develop effective driving routes and apply measurable standards to assess student performance consistently. By implementing these strategies, instructors can ensure fair, objective and effective driver training.

3:00 PM
3:15 PM

Break



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3:15 PM
4:15 PM

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program and Roadside Oral Fluid Testing – Rooms C/D

Presenter: Trooper Tarek Chase
Facilitator: Thomas Johnson



Impaired drivers are involved in approximately one third of all fatality crashes in North Dakota. These statistics report only alcohol impairment, but drug impaired driving is on the rise. This session will discuss the DRE Program and how it relates to identifying and removing drug impaired drivers from the roadway. We will also discuss a new tool, roadside oral fluid testing device, being issued to North Dakota officers to help combat drug impaired driving.

4:15 PM
5:00 PM

NDDTSEA Business Meeting – Rooms C/D

Introduction: Past Presidents and Board Members

Boyd Westman, President

Recognition of New Members and Retiring Teachers

Ann Bettenhausen, Secretary-Treasurer

Cal Lundberg Award

Boyd Westman, President

NDDTSEA "Teacher of the Year" Award

Nick Cavallo – Past Award Recipients

Dr. James Copeland

Minot State University, Driver Education Program



8:00 PM

Social – Rooms C/D

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SATURDAY – March 29, 2025

8:00 AM **Navigating the Road Together: New Online**
9:00 AM **Parent Program for New Drivers – Rooms C/D**

Presenter: Jon Dondoneau



The new ND Parent Program was designed to empower parents and reinforce their role in guiding teens through the Graduated Driver Licensing journey. This Parent Program course covers key elements, from understanding permit requirements to legal implications and best practices for parental involvement. Parents learn practical tips for safe driving habits and compliance with regulations.

9:00 AM **SmartSign Driver Behavior Pilot Program:**
10:00 AM **Using Technology to Enhance Road Safety – Rooms C/D**



Presenter: Leah Kelm
Facilitator: Jon Dondoneau

The Cass County Highway Department is taking a bold step toward improving road safety with their SmartSign Driver Behavior Pilot Program, made possible through federal funding from the NDDOT's Highway Safety Plan. This session will explore how advanced technology is being used to provide feedback and identify dangerous driving behaviors such as seat belt non-use, speeding, and distracted driving – all critical issues in preventing motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries across North Dakota.

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SATURDAY – March 29, 2025

10:00 AM **Break**
10:15 AM

10:15 AM **Vision Zero Schools – Rooms C/D**
11:15 AM



Presenter: Leah Kelm

Facilitator: Jon Dondoneau

This session will showcase the inspiring efforts of teens from across the state who are advancing traffic safety through the Vision Zero School program! Learn about the significant impact of their work, find out how to get your school involved, and gain ideas to bring back to your community to help create safer roads for all.

11:15 AM **Wrap Up/Evaluations/Announcements – Door**
12:00 PM **Prizes – Rooms C/D**



Presenter: Boyd Westman
Facilitator: Jon Dondoneau



Jon Dondoneau

Jon Dondoneau is a special education strategist for West Fargo Sheyenne High School committed to shaping the next generation of safe and responsible drivers. He is the public information officer for the NDDTSEA, a representative for the Board of Directors – Central Region for the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) and is actively working to support the development of the ADTSEA Central Region. Dondoneau's dedication to making our roads safer continues through involvement with Vision Zero as a member of the Young Driver Emphasis Team and the Speed and Aggressive Driving Emphasis Team, as well as a supporter for the North Dakota Driving Skills for Success Event. Dondoneau is also the owner of Elite Steering Driving School (ESDS), a driving force that is leaving its mark with locations in Fargo, Grand Forks and Jamestown. Under his guidance, ESDS facilitates the development of confidence and cultivates a culture of safe driving practices for more than 300 student drivers annually. This includes extending support to Sanford EMS, aiding recipients of ND Vocational Rehabilitation, and participating in various programs for new Americans across the state.

Dondoneau is a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in special education, and a certificate in autism spectrum disorders. Dondoneau received an endorsement for highway and traffic safety from Minot State University (MSU), and a master's degree from North Dakota State University (NDSU) in educational leadership.



Darin Bardal

Darin Bardal is the Vision Zero representative of NDDTSEA. A graduate of MSU, He has been a driver education teacher for the last 17 years for West Fargo Public Schools, currently teaching at West Fargo Sheyenne and Horace High Schools. Bardal was awarded the ADTSEA Teacher of Excellence Award in 2019 and served as the Southeast representative prior to president elect and president of NDDTSEA for two years. Bardal is also the Girls Varsity Hockey Coach for the West Fargo United.



Mayor Michael Schmitz

Mayor Michael Schmitz is a lifelong North Dakotan who was elected Mayor of Bismarck in 2022. As Mayor, Schmitz serves as the President of the Bismarck City Commission and conducts the city commission meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. As the chair of the meetings, he is always the final vote, and subsequently the tie-breaker in the event of a 2-2 stalemate. As Mayor, he determines the portfolios for the other city commissioners. His portfolios include the city's administration department, the Bismarck Event Center, City Planning Commission, community development department, economic development, human resources department, legal department, Parking Authority and the Vision Fund.

Mayor Schmitz graduated from the University of Mary in 1984 and began his career as an accountant. In 2003, he started his own accounting firm, Schmitz-Holmstrom CPA, which recently merged with Point CPA to create an organization of more than 50 employees. Mike and his wife Janel have been married for 40 years and they have two adult sons.



Prince Boparai

Inspired by his love for teaching and a desire to build safer communities, Prince Boparai founded United Driving School in the early 2000s. His ability to connect effectively with students has made him a sought-after expert in the driver education community. His extensive experience teaching both students and instructors allows him to connect both audiences to facilitate the most effective learning and create safe and responsible drivers. In 2016, seeing the popularity of online drivers ed across the country, Boparai launched Teach Safe, which helps drivers ed programs offer the excellent driver education he is known for through fully customizable, high-quality online programs. Currently, Boparai devotes his time to sharing his knowledge through speaking engagements, committee work and growing Teach Safe through partnerships with driver education programs across the country.



Adrian Biewer

Adrian Biewer dedicated his career to education, serving as a teacher and superintendent/principal before transitioning to the NDSU Extension Service in 2002. He spent five years at the Richland County Extension Office before becoming a specialist at the Center for 4-H Youth Development in Fargo. After retiring from NDSU Extension in 2024 to spend more time with family, he remained committed to public education. Not ready to step away completely, he joined the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) as a part-time road safety curriculum specialist, continuing his impact on youth development and transportation education.



Theresa Thom

Theresa Thom is the Vision Zero Coordinator for the Southwest region of North Dakota and is housed at the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department in Bismarck. Thom graduated with a degree in communications from the University of Mary in 2020. She is a member of the Occupant Protection Committee and works with schools and communities to increase seat belt use rates within her region through observational studies and data collection. Through events, education and networking, Thom hopes to continue to expand the Vision Zero Initiative and get every North Dakota citizen home safely.



Brad Schaffer

Brad Schaffer has worked at the State of North Dakota for 19 years. He joined NDDOT in 2005 and worked in many capacities including information technology manager, customer support manager, senior programmer, driver license business analyst and as a computer programmer. He was named Driver License Director in 2019. Brad is a graduate of University of Mary and has a master's degree in management.



Rachel Mount

Rachel Mount started her employment with the North Dakota Drivers License Division in June 2000. Her roles have included drivers license examiner, drivers license regional supervisor, and now in her current role as assistant director of licensing. She's been involved in all aspects of drivers license operations. Rachel is a graduate of University of Mary, Bismarck, with a bachelor's degree in management.



Reggie Flythe

Reginald (Reggie) Flythe is a dedicated leader in driver education with nearly 30 years of experience shaping traffic safety programs. A two-time graduate of East Carolina University, he has held key roles in both education and administration. His career spans teaching at Jordan Driving School and Southeast Raleigh High School to leadership positions with Wake County Public Schools and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Flythe has also contributed nationally as a subject matter expert for ADTSEA and Association of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education. His leadership includes serving as President of North Carolina Driver and Traffic Safety Education and ADTSEA and as Secretary/Treasurer of Drivers Education and Training Administrators. Through his expertise, he continues to influence driver education policy and training across the country.



Trooper Tarek Chase

Tarek Chase is a trooper with the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP). Chase brings expertise in recognizing drug and alcohol impaired drivers to his fellow officers all over North Dakota. He has been with the Patrol since 2008 and is a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), instructor, Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) instructor, and an emergency vehicle operation course instructor. In 2017, Chase was appointed North Dakota's first SFST State Coordinator. In 2019, he began overseeing all field sobriety testing training in the state when he was appointed North Dakota's combined DRE/SFST State Coordinator.

SPEAKERS



Leah Kelm

Leah Kelm is the Vision Zero Outreach Coordinator for the Southeast Region of North Dakota. With a strong commitment to enhancing roadway safety, she is a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, a trained Impact Teen Drivers ambassador, and actively participates in multiple Vision Zero Priority Emphasis Committees. Kelm is dedicated to many aspects of traffic safety, but her passion lies in impaired driving prevention, and she works diligently to raise awareness and promote education on this critical issue. Before her current role, Kelm spent nearly 10 years in parks and recreation, building a foundation in community engagement and public safety. Originally from Minnesota, she moved to Fargo to attend NDSU, where she continues to reside with her rescue dog, Bart.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:



2025 ADTSEA Conference July 20 – 23, 2025 Billings, MT



2026 NDDTSEA Conference TBD



2025 SPONSORS

