



MINNESOTA TOWARD **ZERO** DEATHS  
ANNUAL AWARDS  
**2020**

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Offered by:

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# TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

## TZD Star Awards

The Toward Zero Deaths Star Awards are given to recognize excellence in child passenger safety, education, emergency medical and trauma services, enforcement, engineering, and the judicial/court system. Award recipients have demonstrated exceptional creativity, leadership, and organizational skills and the ability to successfully collaborate with and motivate others in efforts to move toward zero deaths on Minnesota roads.



### Child Passenger Safety TZD Star Award

#### Tracy Brown

This award is given to Tracy Brown in recognition of her efforts to promote child passenger safety and to train and mentor technicians, instructors, community organizations, and caregivers. As a CPS technician, instructor, advocate, and consultant for more than 20 years, Tracy is a resource to ensure that all children, including those with special needs, are traveling safely in vehicles.

*Recent recipients: Cameron Gustafson (2019), Karri Hendrickson (2018), Julie Philbrook (2017), Laura Owen (2016), KaRee Lockling (2015)*



### Emergency Medical & Trauma Services TZD Star Award

#### Joan Somes

This award is given to Joan Somes in recognition of her efforts to expand senior driving awareness and education as a co-chair of the Dakota County TZD Coalition. Joan developed a webinar-based law enforcement awareness and training program to help officers understand how the ability to drive is affected with age. This training has been expanded to reach other TZD stakeholders, most recently, emergency care personnel. In addition, her participation in the fatal review committee provides an important perspective on senior driver safety.

*Recent recipients: Kristi Engelstad (2019), Amy Saylor (2018), James Kroona (2017), Matt Jakubik (2016), Deb Syverson (2015)*



### Education TZD Star Award

#### Stephanie Felt

This award is given to Stephanie Felt in recognition of her efforts to develop and grow a successful JOYRIDE program in Kandiyohi County that has provided more than 1,600 rides since 2014. Stephanie has been dedicated to public awareness of traffic safety issues through TZD work since 2003. Her coalition, the Kandiyohi County Traffic Education & Safety Team, is known for new and innovative awareness efforts that become best practices throughout the state.

*Recent recipients: Allison Nicolson (2019), Lt. Jeff Strom (2018), Vijay B. Dixit (2017), Officer Adam Gau (2016), Brenda Pohlman (2015)*



### Enforcement TZD Star Award

#### Chief Josh Hanson

This award is given to Chief Josh Hanson in recognition of his leadership in traffic enforcement and education. As a member of the Kasson Police Department, Josh has partnered with TZD, Dodge County, and the City of Kasson to spot and ticket distracted drivers, educate individuals about pedestrian safety at crosswalks, and coordinate seat belt enforcement in Kasson, among many other initiatives.

*Recent recipients: Cmdr. Jeremy Ellison (2019), Sgt. Kevin Otto (2018), Lt. Brad Norland (2017), Deputy Tom Coulter (2016), Trooper Gabe Cornish (2015)*



### Engineering TZD Star Award

Loren Hill

This award is given to Loren Hill in recognition of his leadership in developing the new MnCMAT2 crash data program, which went live in March 2020. Loren collaborated with engineers across the state to develop this system that delivers data and insights on individual crash circumstances, which helps engineers and law enforcement evaluate crash histories for specific locations or systemwide, ensuring that road improvements are deployed as effectively as possible.

*Recent recipients: Renae Kuehl (2019), Richard Sanders (2018), Rick West (2017), Lou Tasa (2016), Tom Dumont (2015)*



### Judicial/Court System TZD Star Award

Monica Jensen

This award is given to Monica Jensen in recognition of her role as the driving force behind Dakota County TZD and the educational products and activities produced by this group. Monica has spent significant time, energy, and creativity to identify multiple ways to get the message of safe roads out to her community, and she encourages and mentors new members on leadership to sustain the mission.

*Recent recipients: James C. Backstrom (2019), Abby Kuschel (2018), Matt Grochow (2017), Michelle Zehnder Fischer (2016), Jack Muhar (2015)*

## Additional Awards



### Distinguished Public Leadership Award

Kristine Hernandez

This award is given to Kristine Hernandez in recognition of her development and leadership of the Minnesota TZD Regions program. Nine TZD regional coordinators now benefit from Kristine's mentorship and guidance, and the regional model is recognized nationally as a best practice. Kristine has also helped develop marketing and educational materials that are used statewide to help prevent distracted driving and improve safety for work zones, pedestrians, and younger drivers.

*Recent recipients: Hon. Jim Carlson, Hon. Frank Hornstein, Hon. Scott Newman, Hon. Mark Uglem (2019), Lisa Kons (2018), David Bernstein (2017), Chief Gary Kroells (2016), Capt. Michael Hanson and Gordy Pehrson (2015)*

### Emerging Leader Award

#### Distraction-Free Life Club Youth Outreach Team at Eden Prairie High School

This award is given to Sam Fronek, Iesh Gujral, Abhi Nallamalli, Suvarna Nallamalli, and Amy Wang—all members of the Distraction-Free Life Club Youth Outreach Team. The team has held events to engage teens and mentor elementary school children about distracted driving, produced a 2020 wall calendar as a fundraiser, and created an internship program for high school and college students that attracted over 65 applicants across the country.

*Recent recipients: Lincoln High School Key Club, Thief River Falls (2019)*



Amy Wang



Suvarna Nallamalli



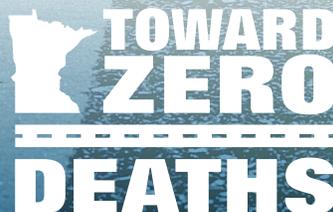
Sam Fronek



Iesh Gujral



Abhi Nallamalli



## Traffic Safety Innovation Award

### American Student Transportation

This award is given to American Student Transportation in recognition of its development of an upgraded lighting system for school buses to help prevent stop-arm violations. LED lights placed at eye level on the front, sides, and back of school buses improve visibility for motorists, allowing them ample time to stop a safe distance from the bus. Statistics show these lights are working to improve safety for schoolchildren.

*Recent recipients: Project Bright Light, Bemidji Area Schools (2018), KARE 11 #eyesUP Campaign (2017), Motorcycle Dial-A-Ride (2016), Diamond Surface Inc. (2015)*



## Kathy Swanson Outstanding Service Award

The Kathy Swanson Outstanding Service Award recognizes exceptional leadership in efforts to improve traffic safety in Minnesota, build partnerships, and mentor others in the field, as well as long-term passion, dedication, and commitment to reducing the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crashes on Minnesota's roads.



### Howard Preston

This award is given to Howard Preston in recognition of his contribution over a 45-year career in helping to develop new methods to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes across the state and the country. Howard played a major role in developing the first Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan and Strategic Highway Safety Plan, as well as guidebooks to help local agencies improve their traffic safety programs and courses for Minnesota LTAP.

*Recent recipients: Lieutenant Don Marose and Joel Watne (2019), Mark Peterson (2018), Judge James Dehn (2017), Sue Porter (2016), Nancy Johnson (2015)*

## TZD 2020 Awards Subcommittee Members

- *Paul Aasen*, Minnesota Safety Council
- *Linda Dolan*, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- *Jason Engeldinger*, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Bill Hammes*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Kammy Huneke*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Irene Jones*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- *Stephanie Malinoff*, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- *Julie Philbrook*, Hennepin Healthcare
- *Karen Sprattler*, Kimley-Horn
- *Mark Vizecky*, State Aid for Local Transportation, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Nominations for the 2021 TZD Awards will be accepted beginning in January, with forms available on the TZD website. The awards will be presented at the 2021 TZD Statewide Conference, scheduled for Oct. 13–14 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

A full list of past award recipients can be found at [www.minnesotatzd.org/about/awards](http://www.minnesotatzd.org/about/awards)

