

# LEARNING

# Curve

Volume 6, No. 4  
Winter 2005

NETWORKING THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

## Featured School

### Central Tech Transportation & Safety Education

For the past 36 years, Central Tech's truck driver-training program has enjoyed much success and growth by providing quality training to residents in Oklahoma. This is largely due to the support we receive from our school board, administration, and the community.

Starting in 1969 as one of only two programs offered at what was then Central Oklahoma Area Vo-Tech, the truck driver-training program was the vision of our newly appointed school superintendent, **John Hopper**. The vo-tech system was new to Oklahoma with only one other location in the state. Hopper wanted to offer training that would allow people to learn a skill and make a good living.

Today, Central Tech Transportation and Safety Education offers a variety of programs including entry-level training and safety instruction for experienced drivers. We have grown from training only 12 students per year with a few pieces of equipment to training over 1,000 students annually with a fleet of over 45 trucks and 60 trailers on a 45-acre range, which includes three miles of paved roadway and a full-time staff of 14 instructors. This would not have happened without the support of the administration and local school board.

But this growth didn't occur without some road bumps along the way. Funding was needed



*In one of many community service projects the school gets involved in, a Central Tech truck delivers three live lemon sharks from Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks, OK.*

in the mid-1980s to expand the truck driver-training program into one of the best in the country. Administration and the new program director, **Barry Cope**, began working with the Oklahoma Trucking Association and state legislators to find funding solutions that would be vital to the state's economic development.

The end of 1987 saw the passage of a bill to fund the truck driver-training program through special appropriations from state revenues. Also that year, the State Department of Career Tech designated Central Tech as a statewide program. This meant that all truck-driver training for the state would be done at Central Tech and would not be restricted to in-district training. But these initiatives were only accomplished through the efforts and support of the school's administration.

Each year, **Robert McClanahan**, the program director, works with administration to provide input (such as enrollment and economic impact information) in compiling the program's budget. A report is also submitted each month to the school board outlining special projects and comparisons of enrollment figures for that month.

Each quarter we submit a list of program graduates to state legislators advising them of the constituents from their district that have graduated, including a word of thanks for their support and the appropriations they approved. Each time we assist any company or organization, we send a news release to the appropriate senator or representative to again let them know what we are doing in their districts. By keeping everyone informed of our program's economic impact, student enrollment, and special projects, we will continue to have the support necessary to the continued success and growth of the truck driver-training program at Central Tech.

*For more information, contact Robert McClanahan, Director, Central Tech Transportation & Safety Education, 3 CT Circle, Drumright, OK 74030; 918-325-2551, ext. 314.*

## National Convention Set for March 29-31, April 1

Mark your calendars and make plans for the 16th Annual NAPFTDS Convention! "We will meet in downtown Nashville, TN for three great days of learning and networking with members from all across the country," **Martin Garsee**, Convention Co-Chair, said. "We'll share goals and dreams that we have for each of our programs, and we'll get ideas on how to accomplish them."

Fellow Co-Chair **Dave Terry** reminds members that the Convention opens Wednesday evening, March 29, with a Welcoming Reception. Terry looks forward to this initial gathering, because he sees it as an opportunity to meet and talk informally with colleagues — before the start of the first full day's agenda.

The committee has planned a powerful agenda for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Members won't want to miss the Past Presidents' Panel or the popular Break-Out Sessions that give members a chance to discuss topics relevant to everyday operations. The planners collected suggestions from the membership. "We have a variety of topics including the Latest Technology, the FMCSA Update, and a longer Carrier Roundtable," said **Phil Steinkamp**, Co-Chair. And, emphasizing the relationships formed, he added, "It will be great to see old friends, but it will be even better to make new friends and gather new ideas."

To register or be a sponsor for this event, please complete the form inserted in this issue. *Note: March 13 is the cut-off date for the hotel group rate.* The tentative agenda follows.

See Page 2 — *National Convention*

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**National Convention**  
March 29-31, April 1, 2006  
— DoubleTree Hotel —  
**Nashville, TN**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**Wednesday, March 29**

2:00-5:00 Vendor Set-Up  
 5:00-6:30 Board Meeting, Convention Registration, Vendor Displays  
 7:00-9:00 Reception: *Welcome to all attendees!*

**Thursday, March 30**

8:00-8:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast, Vendor Displays  
 8:30-9:30 NAPFTDS President's Welcome & Introduction of Attendees  
 9:30-10:15 NAPFTDS: What is Happening within the Organization Today  
 10:15-10:45 *Break & Vendor Displays*  
 10:45-12:00 FMCSA Update — Questions & Answers  
 12:00-1:00 *Lunch & Vendor Displays*  
 1:00-1:15 Open Nominations of Board Members  
 1:15-2:30 Carrier Roundtable: Strengthening Relationships between Schools & Industry  
 2:30-3:00 *Break & Vendor Displays*  
 3:00-4:15 Carrier Roundtable continues — Questions and Answers  
 4:15-4:30 Finish Board Nominations

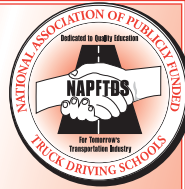
**Friday, March 31**

8:00-8:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast, Vendor Displays  
 8:30-9:15 Board Nominee Presentations and Vote  
 9:15-10:30 Brief Vendor Presentations  
 10:30-11:00 *Break & Vendor Displays*  
 11:00-12:00 Overview of the Latest Technology: Its Impact on Truck Driving Schools & Industry  
 12:00-1:00 *Lunch & Vendor Displays*  
 1:00-2:00 Presentation: Tomorrow's Truck Drivers - Recruiting & Educating  
 2:00-2:30 *Break & Vendor Displays*  
 2:30-4:30 Break-Out Sessions: *Topics Relevant to Everyday Program Operations*  
 6:30-9:00 Reception & Recognition Banquet

**Saturday, April 1**

8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast, Vendor Displays (optional)  
 8:30-9:30 Past Presidents' Panel: Marketing the Value of Your Program to Your School Administration  
 9:30-9:45 *Break*  
 9:45-10:45 Past Presidents' Panel continues  
 10:45-11:15 Membership Evaluation of Convention  
 11:15-11:45 Closing  
 11:45-1:00 Board Lunch  
 1:00-3:00 Final Board Meeting

**We Welcome Each Sponsor to our 2006 National Convention**



Your contribution includes space for a display booth. See Registration Form in this issue or contact **Chuck Collins, call 920-739-9786**

**President's Message**

**Bill Fath**



Our NAPFTDS schools offer Region Conferences each fall. With seminars and trainings on the latest regulatory updates, teaching strategies, and technology, they are an excellent way to keep up with what's going on in the industry, and at locations closer to home for most of you than our annual National Conference.

I'm very grateful to the school coordinators, administrators, and staff for the initiative, creativity, and hard work it takes to put together these events. I especially wish to thank coordinators **Tina Frindt**, Region #7; **Van O'Neal**, Region #4; **Dave Keays**, #Region 3; **Roy Williams**, Region #6; and **Wade Westphal**, Region #1. Look for the short Conference reports in this issue and in the next edition of the *Learning Curve*.

Remember there will be two December Conferences this year — Region #6, Dec. 1-2 in Sandersville, GA; and Region #1, Dec. 8-9 in Tacoma, WA. For more information, contact Roy Williams, (478) 553-9239; and Wade Westphal, (253) 680-7491, respectively.

It was again my privilege to attend as many of the Region Conferences that my budget would allow, to speak about the benefits of membership in our association. Encouraging ALL publicly funded post-secondary truck-driving schools to join the NAPFTDS is one of our Board's goals. In addition to the State Captains who have been working diligently to recruit more members, I strongly encourage EACH of you to invite any non-member public schools to join our Association. (See the Spring 2005 *Learning Curve* for more on the Membership Project.)

The NAPFTDS National Convention will be held March 29-31 and April 1, 2006 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Nashville, TN. I invite all of you to the Welcoming Reception on Wednesday evening, March 29. **Please note that we've added the March 29 date since the last *Learning Curve*.** All members are always welcome to attend the board meetings. I would like to thank our Convention Committee and Board Members **Dave Terry**, **Phil Steinkamp**, and **Martin Garsee** for the great job planning this 2006 Convention, I know they have been working on a great agenda.

The DoubleTree is located in downtown Nashville — near many favorite locations in "Music City USA." **March 13** is the cut-off date for the hotel group rate. A registration form is inserted in this issue. Please note that a portion of the form is reserved for those interested in sponsoring the Convention. We are most appreciative to our loyal sponsors to date, and we welcome new ones as sponsors play an important role in the success of this event.

Finally, I'm very proud of the numerous NAPFTDS schools that were involved in efforts to aid Hurricane Katrina and Rita's disaster victims. Many of us made this a priority in our busy schedules and played an important role in transporting needed supplies to Gulf Coast communities. Our hearts and prayers go out to Chuck Mosqueda from Wichita Area Technical College who has resigned his position as Director of Applied & Engineering Technologies and his Executive Board position with the NAPFTDS to answer a strong call he has to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Please note a related article in this issue.

**Talk to you again in the next *Learning Curve*!**

**NAPFTDS MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION**

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

FULL MEMBERSHIP (\$175): Any publicly funded school or representative employee of that school engaged directly in providing truck driver training.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$350): Any industry or representative employee of that industry which indirectly supports public truck driving schools, limited to agencies such as trucking companies, insurance companies, publishers, and equipment manufacturers interested in the welfare of publicly funded truck driving schools.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$250): Limited to administrators or staff at a publicly funded school interested in the trucking industry or administrators in schools that contract with proprietary organizations to provide truck driver training.

THE NEXT STEP: Application for membership shall be made on an application form as may be required by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of the Board of Directors is necessary for the acceptance of an application for membership. All applicants who have been accepted into the membership of the Association must submit a fully completed and signed application form that, by doing, signifies their adherence of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of said Association. Membership in the applicable class shall be complete upon application of the Association, approval of the Board, and payment of the appropriate dues.

Return form to:

**Tina Frindt**, Treasurer, NAPFTDS  
 1900 Corporate Center Drive East, Suite 100  
 Tobyhanna, PA 18466  
 Fax: 570-839-3534

Questions about membership may be directed to:

**Chuck Collins**, Executive Director, NAPFTDS

Office Phone: 920-739-9786 • Cell Phone: 920-205-4259



# NAPFTDS Schools Assist with Hurricane Relief

Numerous NAPFTDS schools responded to the disaster relief needs that followed Hurricanes Katrina and Rita this fall. In most cases, it took coordinated efforts among relief agencies and schools, with the colleges offering their resources in the form of trucks and drivers.

From the east, to the west, to the nation's heartland — these are but a few of the publicly funded truck driving schools in the U.S. that participated: **Northampton Community College** in Tobyhanna, PA; **Wichita Area Technical College** in Wichita, KS; **Des Moines Area Community College** in Des Moines, IA; and **John Wood Community College** in Quincy, IL.

In Quincy, **Don Hess** was working with MEMA (Mississippi Emergency Management Agency) to coordinate the transport and delivery of loads. Instructors from his college volunteered personal time to deliver supplies in school trucks. Hess also sent all membership emails to NAPFTDS requesting help with the transport of seed and hay from various places of origin to Jackson, MS. He then alerted members that trucks were needed to deliver loads from Jackson, MS, to points in the

stricken towns on the coast. Hess cited **Tina Frindt** from Tobyanna, PA, who was one of the generous school responders — she was coordinating, with MEMA, the transport of loads.

**Ray Raske** reports that the Des Moines efforts were coordinated by the campus administration at DMACC. The Jaycees, in cooperation with the Red Cross, gathered food, water, and supplies. The truck driving staff volunteered its time to transport truckloads to central warehouses set up in New Iberia, LA, about 40 miles west of New Orleans. Raske said he was aware that other Ohio schools were also participating in the work — to get much-needed supplies to the Gulf coast victims.

On behalf of his college in Wichita, KS, **Chuck Mosqueda** hauled 100 tons of supplies from Wichita to Louisiana. After hauling freight into Louisiana, he would drive to the Port of Baton Rouge to reload. In a mid-September email to school members, Mosqueda said, "My first load was loaded in a 53-foot box van; it went to the New Orleans Convention center, and because I have had difficulty getting around abandoned vehicles

and high steel curbs, I am now running triples. They bend in the middle and are much easier to maneuver under these circumstances."

As part of his efforts, Mosqueda talked with an aide to the Kansas governor, who is trying to work out a relocation plan for some of the victims of Katrina. Mosqueda is hopeful that "...some way we can get some people to relocate and spend time in training for jobs while unemployed. Truck driving would be a perfect temporary fit for people who are displaced." He recognized that there would be other appropriate technical areas from which they could also choose.

In late September, Mosqueda resigned from his position at the college, as Director of Applied & Engineering Technologies — Seneca Center, so that he could devote full-time efforts to aiding the hurricane victims. He purchased a dump truck, rented a tracked skid loader, and planned to haul food and products in the area. "With my truck, my diesel technology and my heavy equipment operator experience, I know I will be of help and that I will make a difference," said Mosqueda.

## RULES & RIGs

### Minimum Training Requirements...

*Awaiting a Decision*

Our NAPFTDS membership is well aware of the 2004 ruling on Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level CMV Operators. The FMCSA rule, which applies to drivers with less than one year experience, mandates training in four areas: medical qualifications, hours-of-service, wellness, and whistleblower protection.

Many Association members voiced disappointment with this ruling, feeling that it did not adequately address the skills that one needs to become a CMV driver. Other driver and safety groups had similar concerns. The

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Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) and the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety formed a coalition, filed a brief, and, this fall, presented arguments before a federal appeals court. They argued that the training requirements should include behind-the-wheel training.

**Sean McNally**, a staff reporter for *Transport Topics* (week of September 26, 2005, p. 39) reported on the coalition's arguments at the hearings. He writes that **Adina Rosenbaum**, an attorney with a litigation group representing the Advocates, stated, "We think adequate training has to include training in the actual operation of a truck." McNally also reports that **Paul Cullen Jr.**, representing OOIDA, said, "OOIDA takes a position in agreement with the findings of the agency, up until the final rule. The proposed driver-training rule bore no rational relationship to the record developed on this topic during the rulemaking proceeding."

Now that the hearings have taken place, we may still have some basic questions. What was the general reaction to the hearings from those representing the coalition? When can we expect a decision by the three judges? Concluding his article, McNally writes that Rosenbaum said the September hearings "went well" and that the "judges asked good questions." The reporter adds that Cullen said the judges were "well prepared and knowledgeable about the case," and he (Cullen) expected that a decision in the case could be made soon.

*With appreciation to Transport Topics.*

### NAPFTDS FALL REGION CONFERENCES

Offering high-quality, workshops/seminars on national and regional issues for truck driving instructors and support staff. *Free of charge to attendees.* Allow about 1½ days per conference.

**Check your Region - Contact your Region Coordinator**

#### Region #1

Dec. 8-9 Thurs., Fri.

**Wade Westphal**, Coordinator

Bates Technical College

Tacoma, WA

Ph. 253-680-7491

#### Region #6

Dec. 1-2 Thurs., Fri.

**Roy Williams**, Coordinator

Sandersville Technical college

Sandersville, GA

Ph. 478-553-9239

**Vendors are encouraged to exhibit products or services at Region Conferences. Cost to exhibit is \$150 at each Region.**

### Important notice to those who are not yet members of NAPFTDS!

If you are not a member of the Association, and you would like to continue receiving the *Learning Curve* and other benefits of membership, please complete the **MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION FORM** in this newsletter and return with your payment of appropriate dues. While we have generous supporters, member dues are the backbone of our Association.

# Regions Hold Informative Conferences

**What:** Region #3 Conference

**Where:** Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire, WI

**When:** Oct. 20-21, 2005

**Speakers/Presenters:** Included **Bill Fath**, Alexandria Tech, NAPFTDS president; **Chuck Collins**, NAPFTDS executive director; **Dan Drexler**, FMCSA; **Ken Uruquart**, Minnesota State Patrol; **Carol Craig**, **Marv Franson**, CVTC; **Joseph Simons**, DNA of Commerce; **Rob Simpson**, marketing and production manager, Volvo Trucks; **Sgt. Dori Petznick**, WI State Patrol; **Angie Simon**, **Kim Schueller**, J.J. Keller.

**What was Discussed:** Dan gave attendees an update on federal regulations; Ken discussed crash avoidance training; Carol presented "Tapping the Hidden Potential of Learners and Trainers"; Joseph led a roundtable discussion on recruiting and retention; Chuck spoke on Association membership and benefits; Dori presented cargo securement; and Rob discussed current and future safety technology. **Notable:** Convention-goers attended a dinner theater and toured CVTC.

*Submitted by: Dave Keays.*

**What:** Region #4 Conference

**Where:** Houston Community College, Houston, TX

**When:** Oct. 6-7, 2005

**Speakers/Presenters:** Included **Bob Swint**, CEO, ATA & Associates; **Kent Price**, president, GearMaster; **Kevin Lewis**, CDL safety director, AAMVA; **J.P. Rose**, **Don Grime**, vice presidents, Wells Fargo; **Elmer Fulp**, Project Rio administrator; and **Robert McClanahan**, past president, NAPFTDS.

**What was Discussed:** Bob spoke on "Integrate Battlefield," an enlightening presentation on new technology. Kent had a stellar presentation on double clutching, and he has some great information that can be downloaded for FREE. Kevin presented a highly informative session on new CDL tests. J.P. and Don spoke on financing and municipal leases. Elmer spoke on the value of training persons with felony backgrounds. Robert discussed regulatory

issues and as usual was a great addition to the agenda. A lively roundtable with schools and carriers rounded out the conference.

**Notable:** **Covenant Transport** hosted breakfast for both days. HCC Dean of Workforce **Kenneth Hernandez** sponsored an excellent lunch, and **Stevens Transport** capped the evening by hosting an exceptional dinner in the banquet room of an authentic Mexican restaurant.

*Submitted by: Van O'Neal.*

**What:** Region #7 Conference

**Where:** Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA.

**When:** Sept. 29-30.

**Speakers/Presenters:** Included **Dennis McGee**, FMCSA; **Dan Stroupe** and **Jack Price**, Clearfield County Career and Technology Center; **Patti Sharpe**, local WIB; **Dr. Arthur Scott** and **Tina Frindt**, NCC; **Dr. Everitt Binns**, Eastern PA EMS Council.

**What was Discussed:** Tina reviewed membership benefits and encouraged non-members to join. Dennis discussed regulation and HOS changes, noting that many more changes are expected. Dan and Jack discussed National Safety Council and how schools can incorporate it in the classroom and to generate revenue. Dan also discussed Highway Watch. Patti, an employment and training specialist, did a great job answering a variety of questions.

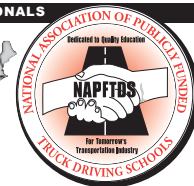
**Notable:** Dr. Binns helped attendees understand that each student learns differently, and he pointed out some humorous traits of each personality type. We finished up with a carrier roundtable, which Dan facilitated. He has an interesting perspective because he just started a new job working for a trucking company. Feedback from attendees was positive, and they enjoyed the opportunity to talk with other schools. We would like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors that helped make the event possible.

*Submitted by: Cindy Woodling, Tina Frindt.*

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## LEARNING *Curve*

NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS



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P.O. Box 910, La Plata, MD 20646  
Ph: 301-934-7594, Fx: 301-934-7698,  
Em: arlenek@csmd.edu

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Wichita Area Technical College - Commercial Driver Education  
4141 N. Seneca, Wichita, KS 67204-3103  
Ph: 316-677-1200, Fx: 316-677-1210,  
Em: cmosqueda@watac.edu

#### Tina Frindt TREASURER

Northampton Community College  
1900 Corporate Center Drive East, Suite 100,  
Toboyhanna, PA 18466  
Ph: 570-839-2778, Fx: 570-839-3534,  
Em: tfrindt@northampton.edu

#### K. Michael O'Connell, CVTA REP.

Executive Director & Counsel, CVTA  
P.O. Box 5310, Springfield, VA 22150  
Ph: 703-728-8600, Fx: 703-642-3033  
Em: MIKE@CVTA.ORG

#### Dave Terry

Southwest Applied Technical College  
510 West 800 South, Cedar City, UT 84720  
Ph: 435-590-4993  
Em: david.terry@w.swatc.tec.ut.us

#### Carol Colwell

Central Tech Transportation & Safety Education  
3 CT Circle, Drumright, OK 74030  
Ph: 918-352-2551, ext. 312, Fx: 918-352-4522,  
Em: carolc@ctechok.org

#### Dave Keays

Chippewa Valley Tech  
620 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701-6162  
Ph: 715-855-7534, Fx: 715-855-7560,  
Em: dkeays@cvtc.edu

#### Van O'Neal

Houston Community College  
555 Community College Dr., Building B,  
Houston, TX 77013  
Ph: 713-718-8201, Fx: 713-718-8213  
Em: van.oneal@hccs.edu

#### Ray Raske

Des Moines Area Community College  
2081 N.E. 54th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50313  
Ph: 800-353-7483, Fx: 515-263-8331  
Em: rcraske@dmacc.edu

#### Phil Steinkamp

John Wood Community College  
1301 South 48th St., Quincy IL 62305-8736  
Ph: 217-224-5362, Fx: 217-224-0740  
Em: psteinkamp@jwcc.edu

#### Bob Weining

EMCC Golden Triangle Campus  
8731 S. Frontage Road, P.O. Box 100,  
Mayhew, MS 39753  
Ph: 662-243-1949, Fx: 662-243-1942,  
Em: bweining@eastms.edu

#### Martin Garsee

Houston Community College  
555 Community College Dr., Building B,  
Houston, TX 77013  
Ph: 713-718-8203, Fx: 713-718-8213  
Em: martin.garsee@hccs.edu

### Chuck Collins EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ph: 920-739-9786

National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools

An association of nonprofit, post-secondary, public schools whose purpose is to encourage member schools to promote high standards and ethical principles in the creation and/or administration of training programs.

## DMACC Sponsors Rodeo

It was an especially busy fall season at the Transportation Institute of Des Moines Area Community College. The Iowa college sponsored a "Student Appreciation Days Celebration and Rodeo" on Sept. 15-16. Over 40 participants benefited from the activities that included a truck rodeo, driving experience on the skid pad, a barbeque, and a job fair on-site with recruiters from several large trucking companies.

**Ray Raske**, Assistant Director of Truck Driver Training at DMACC, said the two-day event featured the DMACC Rodeo Challenge, a skilled truck driving competition. The competition was organized for three separate groups — students enrolled in the DMACC program, past graduates of the program, and program instructors. First, second and third-place trophies were awarded in each group.

Accepting an invitation that was extended to other groups, employees from various programs on campus came to watch and participate in the Rodeo. The advisory committee to the truck driving program also took part. And, along with DMACC's promotion of the Special Olympics

organization during the event, some of its members enjoyed participating in the competition.

Raske believes there can be very tangible benefits to sponsoring an event like this. "The Rodeo fostered interest in and enthusiasm for truck driver education among DMACC students, past graduates, and instructors in the program," he said. "In addition, by extending the invitation to other groups, they gained a better understanding of the skills that are necessary to become a professional driver."

Local radio news channels were involved, bringing attention to the celebration and rodeo — and informing the general public of the important role that truck safety plays at DMACC.

Raske envisions expanding the celebration and rodeo in the future. He would like to invite other publicly funded truck driving schools within Iowa to participate in the event.

*If you have a special event or story from your school that could be considered for publication in the Learning Curve, please contact Chuck Collins, ph. 920-739-9786. We welcome your input.*