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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Heizen, Board Secretariat
Amy.Heizen@nsc.org
(813) 486-6100

Allan Buchanan, Board Chairperson
Allan.Buchanan@ncdoi.gov
(919)-218-7855

National Child Passenger Safety Board Honors 2013 Instructor and Technician of the Year

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to announce the recipients of the third annual Instructor and Technician of the Year Awards. Bev Kellner, Program Manager of the Texas A&M Passenger Safety Project, has been named Instructor of the Year, and Amelia “Millie” Jensen of the Winslow Indian Health Care Center in Arizona is the Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year.

Both women were chosen by the National CPS Board from more than 70 nominations for their exceptional achievements and dedication to the field. Child passenger safety is one of the nation’s most significant injury prevention initiatives, as car crashes are the leading cause of injury and death for young children.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2011 there were 274 occupant fatalities among children age 4 and younger – 30 percent of which were totally unrestrained. Research on the effectiveness of child safety seats has found them to reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants (younger than 1 year old) and by 54 percent for toddlers (1 to 4 years old) in passenger cars.

Bev Kellner, the 2013 Instructor of the Year, has been a nationally certified CPST since 1999, and CPST Instructor since 2002. She began working with the Passenger Safety Project in 1996, where she discovered her passion for child passenger safety. Since 1999 the project has checked more than 20,000 seats and 99 percent have had some element of misuse. The project also provides online transportation safety training for child care providers. Courses have been completed by almost 22,000 child care providers since 2009.

“Parents don’t realize the dangers involved even in low speed crashes. They think that if they are just going around the corner, that they don’t need to worry about their seat being installed correctly. We always let them know that most crashes occur close to home,” said Kellner. “Protect your children on every trip!”

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Amelia “Millie” Jensen, the 2013 CPS Technician of the Year, is from the Navajo, Diné tribe in Dilkon, Arizona. She became a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2005 but has been working in the field of child passenger safety since 1995. She loves working with families and children of all ages. She believes keeping families informed about how important it is to buckle-up and stay safe is our #1 priority.

“Thanks to the parents who are willing to learn about seatbelts and car seats. I love working with families and children of all ages. They are the reason that I enjoy my job. At the end of the day, I feel good going home knowing that there is one more child that is safe out there,” Jensen said. “Be safe and buckle up!”

NHTSA [estimates](#) that child restraints saved 263 lives in 2011 among children younger than 5, and an estimated 9,867 lives have been saved by child restraints since 1975.

The National Child Passenger Safety Board awarded Kellner and Jensen with this year’s awards at the Lifesavers Conference in Denver, Colorado. Kellner resides in Texas and Jensen lives in Arizona.

Child passenger safety inspection stations are located throughout the country and can be located through NHTSA’s [nationwide locator](#). To learn how to become a certified technician or instructor, visit [cpsboard.org](#).

List of Award Recipients

2013

CPST Instructor of the Year

Bev Kellner
College Station, TX

CPS Technician of the Year

Amelia “Millie” Jensen
Dilkon, AZ

2012

CPST Instructor of the Year

Katrina Altenhofen
Washington County, IA

CPS Technician of the Year

Mandi Seethaler
Anchorage, AK

2011

CPST Instructor of the Year

Beth Washington
Tulsa, OK

CPS Technician of the Year

Giuseppina (Pina) Violano
New Haven, CT

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#) is a collaborative voice providing guidance for the safe transportation of children and ensuring the integrity of the child passenger safety training and certification program. The 22-member Board brings together medical, public health and injury prevention professionals, law enforcement, auto and car seat manufacturers, as well as representatives from our nation’s most respected traffic safety organizations such as the National Safety Council and AAA. It works collaboratively with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and with the Safe Kids Worldwide CPS Certification Program to provide insight from their respective organizations on the CPS technician training and certification program.