



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

rear facing • forward facing • booster seat • seat belts

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Mauricio Joya Named Instructor of the Year

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – In the Automotive Safety Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine (Department of Pediatrics) and in the Indiana Hispanic/Latio Communities, Mauricio Joya is known as the car seat man. In the child passenger safety world, he now goes by another nickname – Instructor of the Year.

Joya, the first Hispanic/Latino project manager for his organization, was bestowed that prestigious title by the National Child Passenger Safety Board during an awards ceremony March 30 at the Lifesavers Conference in the Kentucky International Convention Center. His commitment to keeping children safe and mentoring Child Passenger Safety Technicians is legendary, both close to home and through his volunteer work in Spanish-speaking countries.

“Great teachers like Mauricio don’t just teach new technicians the tricks of the trade, they prepare them for the real-world encounters they will have with parents and caregivers,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Tammy Franks said. “Saying you appreciate their efforts serves as reminder you recognize their impact goes well beyond that of the classroom. That’s what we are doing today, appreciating Mauricio.”

Joya has spent 13½ years in the Automotive Safety Program at Indiana University. Twelve years ago, he implemented the state’s largest car seat clinic at its annual conference. Last year, 338 inspections were completed during the event and 268 seats were provided to families and children in need in a two-hour period. He recruited more than 120 child passenger safety technicians, instructors and volunteers to work at the clinic, including a number of high school students.

Joya was one of the first certified international CPS Instructors. He has volunteered to teach CPS in Uruguay, Chile and Mexico. His extensive local work has grown to include going on foot to businesses, restaurants and stores in a bid to spread the word of child passenger safety education and car seat safety among the Hispanic/Latino community. He has appeared as a guest on TV shows and radio programs.

He mentors technicians who speak English as a second language. Prior to providing classroom instruction, he meets with them to review terms they may not be familiar with and works to secure scholarships for CPS technician candidates.

He also coordinates local refresher courses and CPS meetings.

“The more you know about Mauricio, the more you get a sense that he cares about his work and his students,” Franks said. “The end result is that this ‘car seat man’ makes it possible for children to ride safer in cars.”

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board, managed by the National Safety Council, seeks to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. The program is used to train and certify child passenger safety technicians and instructors. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org