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## **Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Arizona Technician Named 2013 National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year**

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to honor Amelia “Millie” Jensen of the Winslow Indian Health Care Center in Arizona as the 2013 Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year.

Jensen was chosen by the National CPS Board from more than 70 nominations for her exceptional achievements and dedication to the field. There are currently more than 36,000 Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) and 1,600 CPST Instructors throughout the country.

Child passenger safety is one of the nation’s most significant injury prevention initiatives, as motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury and death for young children. In 2011, there were 274 occupant fatalities among children younger than 4 years old – 30 percent of which were totally unrestrained.

Amelia “Millie” Jensen works at Winslow Indian Health Care Center/Environmental Health Services/Safety & Injury Prevention, as an Environmental Health Technician/Secretary, where she has been employed for 17 years. She became a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2005 but has been working with child passenger safety and education since 1995. She loves working with families and children of all ages. She believes that our #1 priority should be keeping families informed, bucked up and safe in motor vehicles.

Through her work, Jensen participated on an Injury Prevention Committee. She was encouraged by her supervisor and co-workers to become a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Jensen recalls one snowy morning when her family’s truck slid out of control on black ice, hit a dry spot and the vehicle rolled. No one was hurt, but ever since, this experience serves as an inspiration for Jensen to buckle up and use car seats.

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Jensen says, “Some parents think it is difficult to install car seats and some have this concept that any car seat, no matter what type it is, can be used on their child.” Jensen encourages all parents to “seek education on child passenger safety and buckle up your children – it’s the best gift you can give to your child.” Jensen also believes that “if parents listen and are willing to give 30 minutes of their time to get educated, it is priceless!”

Through her work with the Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Jensen participates in programs that provide infant car seats to the local hospital’s maternity ward for newborns. The program provides child passenger safety education for prenatal patients prior to delivery and hosts car seat clinics. Every Thursday is “Car Seat Education Day” at their office, where they conduct car seat checks and host a distribution program for those that have outgrown or do not have a car seat.

Tens of thousands of individuals have been certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and Technician Instructors since the standardized curriculum and certification program began in early 1998. CPS Technicians and Instructors put their knowledge to work teaching parents and caregivers to properly protect their children and to provide "hands-on" assistance in the proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts.

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 Jensen with the third annual Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year Award at the Lifesavers Conference in Denver, Colorado on April 13, 2013. Board Chairperson, Allan Buchanan, also awarded Jensen with a \$500 prize check on behalf of AAA National.

Jensen is of the Navajo, Diné tribe in Dilkon, Arizona (Tacheenie and Klizilanni clans). She is the proud parent of three children and five grandchildren.

For more information about the CPS Instructor and Technician of the Year Awards and past award recipients, visit [cpsboard.org](http://cpsboard.org).

### **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.

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