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

Itasca, IL – The National Child Passenger Safety Board (NCPSB) is pleased to announce that Jennifer Hoekstra and Sgt. Brian Cooper are the recipients of the fourth annual Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Instructor and Technician of the Year Awards. Hoekstra and Cooper were recognized at the annual Lifesavers Conference in Nashville on April 26.

Hoekstra, coordinator for the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Injury Prevention Program and Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids (Mich.), was named Instructor of the Year, while Cooper of the Carol Stream Police Department (Ill.) is the Technician of the Year.

“We are so pleased to honor these two individuals for the work they have done in their communities,” said Sarah Haverstick, NCPSB Chair. “Both Jennifer and Brian are outstanding examples of the important education and training that car seat technicians and instructors provide on a daily basis all across the country.”

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. Crash deaths have decreased in the past decade by 43 percent, yet more than 650 children younger than 12 died in crashes in 2011. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 3 children was not buckled up. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration estimates that child restraints saved 309 lives in 2009 among children younger than five, and an estimated 9,310 lives have been saved by child restraints from 1975 through 2009.

Hoekstra’s program has 89 car seat events, 30 classes for expectant parents and more than 15 presentations to social service agencies in the Grand Rapids area. Hoekstra is an active member of different committees in Michigan that are working to improve the quality and consistency of injury prevention messages. She is also a recognized subject matter expert at both the local and national levels.

Cooper became a child passenger safety technician in 2005 and has been consistently active in the CPS field. Cooper helps educate parents about the need for proper child passenger safety, and he assists parents who need help installing car seats. Cooper served in the U.S. Navy for four years as a Second Class Petty Officer and earned two Navy Achievement Medals.



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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 [cert.safekids.org](#).

For more information about previous award winners please visit [www.cpsboard.org](#).

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The mission of the National Child Passenger Safety Board is to maintain the quality and integrity of the national Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. This 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](#).

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