

NATIONAL
**Child Passenger
Safety** BOARD
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Contact: Kyndra Webb
National Child Passenger Safety Board Secretariat
Program Manager, National Safety Council
kyndra.lathim@nsc.org

Delilah Darland Receives Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year Award

Beloved Transportation Safety Advocate Creates Quite a Buzz in Yellow Jacket

ITASCA, IL – In Montezuma County, Colorado, one name is synonymous with car seat safety: Delilah Darland.

She is the WIC supervisor and lead car seat technician for Montezuma County Public Health. She is also the recipient of the National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year award, presented by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

Darland was selected based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to education: She makes herself available to assist parents and caregivers learning to install car seats for the first time. She plays videos to help them understand the process and rolls up her sleeves during hands-on demonstrations, too.
- Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion: She maintains connections with local organizations, such as the women and children’s shelter, and encourages local tribal members, Hispanic, Asian and LGBTQ+ parents and caregivers to reach out when in need of support. This commitment enabled her to touch more than 350 families through public outreach events, individual appointments and car seat checkups in 2023.

“Anyone who knows Delilah will tell you she goes above and beyond,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Jim Savage said. “She is passionate. Her dedication to child passenger safety is undeniable. She believes in the over-arching mission of all technicians, preventing unnecessary injuries to children. We’re proud to recognize her for work during this last year – and really for her work these last two decades.”

Darland first certified as a Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2005 but admits she didn’t fully come to understand the impact of her work for several years.

“Just as it takes a village to care and grow a child, I think the same can be true for a new technician,” she said. “My desire to help educate parents on how to keep their children as safe as possible came from others who mentored me. It has been a wonderful journey being a CPST for two decades. I have been able to see so much new technology for car seats and vehicles. It truly is amazing the safety measures the industry has brought about.”

In the community where Darland lives and works, the early childhood council created the Baby Bee Ready app for parents. As soon as Delilah heard about this development, she reached out to offer car seat education and low-cost car seats as an option for one of the online modules. She takes the initiative to find new and unconventional funding sources to pay for car seats. In fact, she not long ago coordinated an effort to blend two grants to keep her car seat assistance program running.

Darland and her husband, William Mott, have been married for 20 years. They have two grown children, Savanna Shaffer and Casey Alexander, and five grandchildren. Delilah and William live in Yellow Jacket, Colorado. When she steps away from public health and injury prevention, she enjoys canning fruits and vegetables. She also loves to bake.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board’s mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board’s work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at www.cpsboard.org