

Center Honors 2008 Partners in Safety

The Center acknowledged its 2008 Partners in Safety at the annual MTA Safety Awards Banquet held on February 19, 2008. The banquet is held in conjunction with the annual Michigan Truck Exposition & Safety Symposium.

Special guest, Captain John Harrison, President of the CVSA (Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance), helped present the Partners in Safety Awards. Captain Harrison is a Regional Commander with the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

Secretary of State, Terri Lynn Land, was the keynote speaker for the banquet. Secretary Land

discussed pending legislation of the proposed enhanced driver's license and ID security card. In addition to being the guest speaker, Land and the Michigan Department of State were honored as a Partner in Safety for helping the Michigan Center for Truck Safety promote its "Are You Truck SMART?" program. The department distributes Truck SMART brochures and broadcasts truck safety public service announcements on the digital television network in branch offices throughout the state.

The Michigan State Transportation Commission was also honored as a Partner in

Safety. Commission Member James Scalici accepted the award for Commission Chairman Ted Wahby.

The Center also recognized ASI Paving and Diesel Truck Sales for their commitment to truck safety by assisting the Center in hosting numerous Periodic Inspection Training (PIT) programs.

Two other individuals also received a 2008 Partner in Safety award:

- Steve Sprague - FMCSA
- Mitch Merkel - Dickinson Community Hospital

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Captain John Harrison (left) and Center Director Mike Irwin (right) present Partners in Safety Awards to Michigan State Transportation Commission member James Scalici and Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.



Captain John Harrison (left) and Center Director Mike Irwin (right) present Partners in Safety Awards to Jeff Warren (second from left) representing Diesel Truck Sales and Adam Wilberding (second from right) representing ASI Paving.



Captain John Harrison (left) and Center Director Mike Irwin (right) present Partners in Safety Awards to Mitch Merkel (second from left) of the Dickinson Community Hospital and Steve Sprague (second from right) of the FMCSA.



Representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation - Permit Section, Michigan Department of Treasury - Fuel Tax Section, Secretary of State Office - IRP/Vehicle Division, Michigan Public Service Commission - Intrastate Regulatory, Michigan State Police - Traffic Safety Division - Training Section, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration - Michigan Office and the Michigan Center for Truck Safety. About 250 people attended the Exhibition & Symposium overall.

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Sprague is a special investigator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. He also speaks at safety seminars throughout the UP.

Merkel is Director of Human Resources and the Occupational Clinic of the Dickinson Community Hospital in Iron Mountain. Mitch has organized free transportation safety seminars and invites the Center's participation in those seminars.

Throughout the year the Center acknowledges drivers who take the extra step by completing the Center's Home Run for Safety Award program. This includes Professional Driver Coaching, the NSC Defensive Driving course, the Decision Driving Course and the Fatigue Awareness Program.

This year Stanislaw Biel from Modular Transportation received his "Home Run for Safety" award at the banquet. ♦



Captain John Harrison (left) and Center Director Mike Irwin (right) present Stanislaw Biel (center) of Modular Transportation with the "Home Run for Safety Award".

1935 PA59; 14,100 copies @ \$.254 per copy, total \$3,464.47

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Lansing, MI
Permit #67

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