Making Lemonade out of Lemons

Ryan Gellner
North Dakota Association of Counties
Vision Zero Outreach Program
Rural Challenges
186 Miles
267 Miles
Rural Challenges

North Dakota:

- So much space.
  - 71,000 Miles (19th Largest State in US)
  - 762,000 Population (4th Least Populous in US)
- 194 High Schools
- 140 Drivers Education Instructors
Impact Teen Drivers Program

- Not just a Drivers Ed problem – It’s a Public Health Crisis
  - 50 % of teens killed are passengers.

- 2016 to March, 2020:
  - 77 Schools
  - Nearly 8,000 teens reached
Impact Teen Drivers Success
Impact Teen Drivers Success

SCHOOL CLOSED CORONAVIRUS
Presenting In A Pandemic
Moving to an Interactive Module

• Worked with Impact Teen Drivers to move EVERYTHING into an online module
  • The 1 Hour Presentation, The Videos, The GDL, The survey
North Dakota, We have a Problem!

- West Fargo High School Drivers Education became our “testers”
  - “Locked Up”
  - “Course Froze in the middle”
  - “Students Couldn’t Complete”
  - “Got Almost to the end and Stopped!”
Promoting The Online Module

✔ 194 High Schools

✔ 140 Drivers Ed Instructors

✔ 100 School Resource Officers

Principal Williams,

My name is Ryan Geister, and I am the Vision Zero Outreach Manager for the North Dakota Association of Counties and serve as the director of our newly created Vision Zero Outreach Coordinators throughout the state.

The Vision Zero Coordinator positions are in place to promote traffic safety by promoting Vision Zero’s mission to eliminate serious injuries and deaths resulting from traffic crashes in our state. Among my duties, I am responsible for six southwest counties in North Dakota. West Fargo Sheyenne High School can help save lives not only in your community but throughout the state of North Dakota.

My goal for your school is simple. I seek to help ensure that every student and teacher enters at school and returns home safely. Vision Zero will supply free educational materials, speakers, simulations, and other outreach activities to create a safe driving environment that will last a lifetime. After all, driving is likely the most dangerous thing you students will do every day for the rest of your lives.

I’ve included a few things to help you get started. In this packet, you will find the following materials that I hope will implement into your daily routines to promote traffic safety in your school by encouraging seat belt use, driving sober and distraction-free, and following speed limits and all traffic laws to help meet Vision Zero.

Morning Announcements: These announcements are traffic safety tips that can be used in the morning or afternoon and are easy to read and understand. Many of them are statistics that will encourage safe driving habits.

Game Announcements: These announcements are meant to supplement your public address announcement at extra-curricular activities. These quick announcements are perfect in-between period breaks or end-of-game situations. Some encourage the use of seat belts for all in attendance and others remind fans not to drive distracted.

Impact Teen Drivers: This top-rated course is delivered to teens close to getting their drivers license, and those in the first year of driving. The four-hour course includes tips to the dangers of distracted and reckless driving. Due to COVID-19, we are now offer this course online which can be implemented right into the classroom or given to homework.

Vision Zero Schools: This student-driven program creates a personal responsibility culture where every vehicle-Related and serious injuries are recognized as preventable and not tolerated. Schools will receive banners featuring student leaders, FAQs, videos and more.

Together, we can reduce serious injuries and deaths relating to vehicle crashes through Vision Zero. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do to help West Fargo Sheyenne.

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Starting to have Success!

• 153 Students Registered
• 13 Adults (Teachers, Professionals) Registered
• Drivers Education still to come.

To Be Continued...
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Vision Zero Outreach Program

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