



2024 Traffic Safety Scholar Social Media Posts

Simon Obi- Johns Hopkins University

Earlier today, I arrived in Denver as one of the 20 Traffic Scholars from the US, here to attend the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#), proudly representing our school [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#).

I am truly grateful and feel fortunate to have been selected from less than 15% recipients of this scholarship through a highly competitive process.

Looking forward to the learnings and networking opportunities that the conference offers.

The Lifesavers Conference is historically the world's largest gathering of leaders and advocates in traffic safety. Now in its 42nd year, the Lifesavers Conference will take place April 7-9, 2024 in Denver, Colorado.

Myles Overall- Purdue University

Last month I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2024 [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Denver, Colorado. Being selected as a Traffic Safety Scholar along with 18 other extremely passionate students, we were able to attend impactful workshops and lectures while also networking with some of the best traffic safety champions from all across the country. Saving lives was the reason I got into the transportation field and being able to work with likeminded individuals who have the same passion really hits home on why we do what we do. With traffic fatalities optimistically coming down from the recent peak of 2021, I'm hopeful that we can continue to lower that number in the years and decades to come.

Massive thanks to [Tara Casanova-Powell](#) and the entire Lifesavers team for the opportunity to attend this conference and meet a myriad of fantastic people!

Debbie Indah- South Carolina State University

I recently had the incredible honor of being selected as a Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholar for 2024. This incredible opportunity allowed me to attend the lifesavers conference in Denver, Colorado-an experience that was nothing short of transformative! At the conference, I had the privilege of engaging with leading experts in traffic safety and fellow advocates who share a passion for making our roads safer. The diverse workshops, plenary sessions, and exhibitions provided a wealth of knowledge and perspective on child passenger safety, distracted and impaired driving, law enforcement strategies, and the development of a safe and holistic transportation system.

A special shoutout to Tara Casanova-Powell, whose efforts made this experience seamless and exceptionally enriching.

As I reflect on this experience, I am more motivated than ever to push the boundaries of what we can achieve together in traffic safety. Let's continue to drive change and save lives!

[#LifesaversConference2024](#) [#TrafficSafety](#) [#RoadSafety](#) [#PublicHealth](#)

Abimbola Ogungbire- University of North Carolina at Charlotte

I am grateful to have been selected as a #Traffic Safety Scholar TSS from a competitive pool (< 15% acceptance rate). As a #TSS, I got the opportunity to attend the Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety and learn from a diverse range of workshops. For me, the highlight of the conference was seeing how industry leaders are integrating different solutions in the #safe #systems approach #framework.

I also want to acknowledge and commend the effort of Tara Casanova-Powell and her team for putting together a wonderful event and for being so accommodating. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in Long Beach, CA.

Yeji Jeon- University of Arizona

This week, I attended #lifesavers2024 as a traffic safety scholar. I could learn about safety concerns and efforts on transportation from all different fields from industry, government, to research. It was a wonderful experience to network with other traffic safety scholars and conference attendees. This conference reminded me the needs of more attention to the safety to head to zero traffic safety concerns

I would like to say thank you to Tara Casanova-Powell and all other board and committee members for having me as a traffic safety scholar for this amazing event and supporting all of the scholars this year. I would also like to thanks to all the traffic safety scholars for all the conversations sharing their thoughts and how they inspired me.

Peter Swenson- University of Massachusetts Amherst

I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended the 2024 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety this past week in Denver, Colorado. As part of the Traffic Safety Scholars program, myself and 18 other students were able to attend and join insightful workshops and lectures, learning and networking with traffic safety professionals from across the country. We learned about traffic safety as it relates to ten disciplines, including impaired/distracted driving, child passenger safety, and the safe system approach.

Each year, there are over 40,000 fatalities on roadways across the United States. After meeting other dedicated students and professionals, I am hopeful we can reach the only acceptable number, zero. Seeing the passion and commitment to traffic safety through this conference has furthered my interest in the field, and I am excited to learn more!

Thank you to Tara Casanova-Powell and the rest of the planning committee for being so welcoming and putting on such a successful event!

Angelina Caggiano- University of Massachusetts Amherst

Last week was my second time attending the Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety as a Traffic Safety Scholar. I am beyond grateful to have been selected as a returning scholar this year! I was able to listen, share, meet, and interact with so many presentations, conversations, people, and exhibits which made this such a great experience. The Lifesavers Conference makes such a niche field feel so much broader and continues to open my mind to many new perspectives and ideas.

Vulnerable road user safety has been one of my main interests when I attend conferences, but at Lifesavers I was able to learn new things about distracted and impaired driving, marketing and communications of traffic safety initiatives, law enforcement, educators, and unfortunately, families who have lost a loved one in a roadway tragedy. These sessions really open one's eyes to the reason why the only acceptable number is 0. Thank you to Tara Casanova-Powell for her continuous efforts of making this conference so impactful.

If there is one thing I want you to take away from this post: please drive safely. [#VisionZero](#)

Odilo Mdimi- Florida International University

Excited to share my experience at the Lifesavers 2024 conference in Denver, Colorado! As a traffic safety scholar, I had the privilege of attending this insightful event last week.

The workshops at Lifesavers truly broadened my perspective on road safety initiatives. From discussions on the safe system approach to collaborative efforts among transportation professionals, law enforcement, political leaders, and the community, every session was packed with valuable insights.

I delved into topics such as aging road user safety concerns, pedestrian safety for the older population, strategies for enhancing motorcycle safety, and the latest innovations in technology to combat distracted driving. Learning about these critical issues was eye-opening and inspiring.

Connecting with my fellow 2024 traffic scholars was undoubtedly a highlight. Hearing about their experiences and insights added immense value to my own learning journey.

A big thank you to the organizers and speakers for orchestrating such an impactful event! Special appreciation to Tara Casanova-Powell, Michelle Khoury, Mary Lofgren and the entire planning committee for their dedication and support of traffic scholars like myself.

And of course, heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Priyanka Alluri, PhD, PE, RSP-2BI for her unwavering support and guidance throughout. Looking forward to applying all that I've learned to contribute further to traffic safety initiatives!

#Lifesavers2024 #FloridaInternationalUniversity #visionzero #SafeSystemApproach #RoadSafety

Joshua Depp- University of Florida

A week ago, I attended the 2024 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety, the nation's largest gathering of highway safety professionals, where I was granted the honor of attending as a returning Traffic Safety Scholar.

For those who are unfamiliar, there are over 40,000 roadway fatalities every year, accounting for around 95% of all US Transportation fatalities. Lifesavers is the premiere conference to learn about the latest research, best practices, cutting-edge initiatives; and to explore innovative technology and strategies used to combat risky driving behaviors and save lives. During my attendance I loved learning about the new work being implemented to drive roadway fatalities to zero, the only acceptable number. Some of my favorite takeaways were the improvements in distraction detection technology and how mental health impacts driving behavior.

I plan on continuing this incredible journey in 2025 at Lifesavers in Long Beach California, I hope to see you there.

Aram Petrosyan- Macalester College

I'm honored to have represented Armenia at the 42nd Annual in Denver, as one of the 19 Traffic Safety Scholars. Being a member of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety and having taken modules about road safety - I was familiar with the topic, and the Lifesavers conference was the perfect opportunity to meet road safety professionals, listen and learn from them, see road safety in action through exhibitions, understand data challenges and successes in road safety, realize how multi-faceted road safety is, and how essential everyone's involvement in it is for us to achieve the ultimate goal of zero fatalities on roads.

I had the chance to delve into topics such as large vehicles and their danger for pedestrians, youth-led mentorship in engaging and advocating for road safety, data systems and their applications in addressing safety goals, autonomous vehicle safety, teen driver testing, post-crash care, bicyclist networks and safety. I had the opportunity to raise concerns about how international students like me could be incentivized to legally avoid the graduated licensing processes, and how deaf and hard of hearing people need mirrors on bikes and bike routes to have a better visibility of their surroundings, especially since bike helmets can reduce car noise, new cars tend to be as noiseless as possible, and bike bells' sound can be difficult to detect while riding.

I'm thankful to and the Lifesavers Planning Committee for their efforts to ensure a greatly organized conference for everyone, as well as effectively accommodating everyone's needs to achieve an inclusive environment. I thank Patricia Messinger for her amazing CART captioning which ensured my full participation in the conference.

I'm also thankful to my Economics professor and Geography professor, academic advisor for recommending this conference and supporting me along the way.

#Lifesavers2024

Enock Mwambeleko- Florida International University

I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2024 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety in Denver, Colorado; an enlightening gathering that brings together dedicated professionals from across the country who are all committed to the noble cause of roadway safety.

From engaging workshops to insightful discussions, each session was a deep dive into the complexities and challenges of roadway safety, celebrating the progress we are making toward safer roads for everyone.

It was an enriching experience to learn more about the Safe System Approach initiative and the collaborative efforts needed from law enforcement, transportation professionals, political leaders, and the community at large to make our roads safer for everyone. Learning about micromobility safety was particularly enlightening, showcasing impressive efforts by various agencies, including the hosts in Colorado, to protect micromobility users on the roadways.

It was also a pleasure to meet my fellow 2024 Traffic Safety Scholars. Learning from your experiences and insights was truly invaluable.

A huge thank you to all the organizers and speakers for such a well-curated conference and to all the passionate professionals I met; your commitment to making our roads safer is truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to Tara Casanova-Powell, Mary Lofgren, Michelle Khoury, and the entire planning committee for organizing such a well-coordinated event and sponsoring the traffic scholars. Your dedication made this conference not only possible but also incredibly impactful.

Lastly, I must express my gratitude to my supervisor, Priyanka Alluri, PhD, PE, RSP-2BI, for her unwavering support in my journey. Your guidance is a continuous source of inspiration and growth.

Here's to applying the lessons learned and continuing to work toward making our roadways safer.

#LifeSavers2024 #Florida International University #RoadwaySafety #VisionZero #SafeSystemApproach #TrafficSafety #MicromobilitySafety

Louis Pratt- Ithaca College

Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety was an absolute success, and a dream come true if I may.

As the National President of SADD Nation, I was able to attend this conference to represent my second home and showcase all the amazing things our students do and how our adult staff/allies amplify our voices. Now, this would not be very "Louis" of me if I did not wear more than one hat. I had the opportunity to become a Traffic Safety Scholar for Lifesavers and collaborate with like-minded students on important topics of traffic safety. This conference allowed me to attend sessions about communications, occupant protection, distracted driving awareness, pedestrian safety, and so much more. My brain is bursting with ideas and my heart is overwhelmed by all of the support I received.

My highlights and thank yous:

- I had the best time seeing two SADD National SLC alum, Hannah Grothe and Shaina Finkel, and having the best reconnection after being miles apart.

- Being able to speak with [Carol \(Lubbers\) Lucio](#) about the importance of youth-led mentorship and how other traffic safety professionals and advocates can do the same
 - Getting to speak AGAIN, thank you, [Dylan Ivy](#) with one of my favorite change makers, [Haley Sandstrom](#). We brought as much humor, energy, and passion to the room as we could. Thank you for being my "backbone," I could not do any of it without you!
 - Listening to an absolute girl boss, Shaina, moderate Lifesavers' very first mental health and driving session. This was incredible and I can't wait to see where you bring your advocacy work next! Bringing light to a "shadowed" topic was not easy, but you did it so well!
 - Getting to connect, spend time, and bond with many members of SADD's team. [Eliza](#), [Deanna](#), [Olivia](#), [Carol \(Lubbers\) Lucio](#), and [Caitlyn](#).
 - Meeting with SADD's new Executive Director, [Scott L. Myers, M.A., ACNP](#), in-person was very empowering. Scott, thank you for taking so much time to listen to Haley and I as well as dedicating your passion to helping SADD obtain its full, student-led, potential.
 - My fellow sparkle connoisseur, [Tara Casanova-Powell](#), thank you for giving me the chance to be a Traffic Safety Scholar and for putting on such an amazing conference. I've never felt so moved in my life! It was a dream come true, and it would not have been possible without you, or all of the sparkles you encompass!
 - [Kerry Chausmer](#) I feel it is necessary to thank you for inducting Eliza, Deanna, and I into the "Traffic Safety Divas Club" along with Tara and Michelle.
 - [Joshua Depp](#), thank you for being the best mentor for Lifesavers, as a returning scholar, and for being so supportive through it.
 - To all my fellow scholars, it was so empowering to listen to your passions, what you're working on back on campus, and how this conference will benefit you. In other words, thank you for being so inspirational.
- Let this post serve as a reminder that Gen Z are not the future, but are instead the present

Tumlumbe Juliana Chengula- South Carolina State University

April 7-9, 2024 marked my participation in the long-awaited 2024 Life Savers Conference held in Denver, Colorado. Alongside 18 other scholars, I represented [South Carolina State University](#). We attended enriching workshops and connected with national traffic safety experts. The conference addressed essential issues such as the safe systems approach and impaired/distracted driving among many. I was particularly intrigued with how intelligent transportation system with the help of data, sensor integration and emerging technologies have continually contributed to safe roadways. Many thanks to [Tara Casanova-Powell](#) and the entire planning committee for the seamless coordination of this awesome conference!
#LifeSavers2024

Carol Perello De Jesus- University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus

This past weekend, I had the incredible opportunity to be selected as a Traffic Safety Scholar at the Lifesavers Conference held in Denver, Colorado. I was selected from 159 candidates for this conference, alongside a dedicated group of students passionate about road safety. The conference provided a valuable learning experience. I gained knowledge about the Safe System Approach, impaired driving prevention, Vision Zero initiatives, and the importance of responsible behavior for both pedestrians and drivers. Additionally, I had the chance to connect with peers from across the country and from various universities. As we move forward through the conference, we learned about how many lives are impacted by the consequences of traffic crashes. It's not just the 40,000 people who lose their lives in traffic crashes each year, but also their families and friends who will always remember that they are not coming back. Being a traffic safety scholar was an incredible opportunity to meet passionate individuals who dedicate their lives every day to making their cities safer and more accommodating for vulnerable road users. I want to express my gratitude for this amazing opportunity to [Tara Casanova-Powell](#) and the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety Planning Committee](#).

Norran Novat- Western Michigan University

I am honored to have participated in the esteemed 2024 [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#), which took place from April 7-9 in Denver, Colorado. As a recipient of the Traffic Safety Scholars program, I had the privilege of representing [Western](#)

Michigan University and joining 18 other talented students in engaging workshops, where we gleaned valuable insights and forged connections with traffic safety professionals from across the nation. The conference covered a spectrum of critical topics, including impaired/distracted driving, child passenger safety, and the implementation of the safe system approach, offering us a comprehensive understanding of traffic safety across various disciplines.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Tara Casanova-Powell and the entire planning committee for their warm hospitality and for orchestrating such a successful event.

Looking forward to the next conference in Long Beach, CA 😊

Click this link for my PR - <https://lnkd.in/gKP4m7hE>

[#Lifesavers2024](#) [#Safety](#)

Wyatt Brown- Oregon State University

I am honored to have had an amazing opportunity representing Oregon State University at the Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety, April 6-9th, 2024 in Denver, CO! It was an incredible gathering of experts from around the globe who shared their innovative strategies and ideas to enhance the safety of our roadways. It was also a blast being able to meet, hang out, and learn from the other 2024 Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholars!

Despite progress, there are still over 40,000 lives lost each year on US roadways. With the only acceptable goal of 0 fatalities, we all still have a ton of work to do. However, witnessing the dedication and passion of the Lifesavers Conference community was truly inspiring. It makes me excited to contribute to road safety in my transportation career and to collaborate with fellow advocates towards creating safer communities!

[#Lifesavers2024](#) [#RoadwaySafety](#)

Bryce Grame- University of Florida

This week I was blessed with an incredible opportunity to attend the 2024 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety in Denver, Colorado, as a Traffic Safety Scholar. Most professional and academic conferences I spend trying to hone my technical skills and learn about research gaps, but this week I tried to really take advantage of the many interdisciplinary sessions to learn about topics I rarely get exposure to. In doing so, I learned a ton about being a future husband and father! With topics like proper seat belt use for pregnant mothers, car seat installation, and new technologies designed to prevent child heatstroke in hot cars, there was so much practical information that I was able to take away. Thank you so much to Lifesavers for making this such a valuable week.

Elsa Moreno Rangel- Oregon State University

I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2024 Lifesavers Conference this April 7-9 in Denver, CO. My research labmate, Wyatt Brown, and I were given the opportunity to represent Oregon State University as 2024 Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholars.

It was incredibly inspiring to learn how multidisciplinary teams of engineers, researchers, federal/state/local government, first responders, law enforcement, public health, communications, injury prevention, advocacy, and non-profit organization professionals are working together to save lives within our infrastructure across the nation.

I would like to thank Tara Casanova-Powell and the Lifesavers Planning Committee for warmly welcoming our 2024 Traffic Safety Scholars Team to this inspiring conference! Thank you so much for the very wonderful experience!

I would also like to thank our graduate school advisor, Dr. David Hurwitz for encouraging Wyatt and I to apply to this wonderful opportunity. We greatly appreciate your great mentorship and support! Go Beavs!

College of Engineering – Oregon State University, Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety

[#Lifesavers2024](#) [#GoBeavs](#)