



## 2015 OPI/MTEA Conference

### Speakers and Workshop Presenters

April 26-28, 2015 • Great Falls, Montana



opi.mt.gov

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Joseph Langhauser** is the product manager for vans and mobility in Fleet and Commercial Operations, General Motors Corporation. Langhauser is responsible for the development and implementation of vans and works with disabled communities to ensure General Motors vehicles are designed to accommodate people with physical challenges. For more than 30 years, he has held numerous engineering and marketing positions at General Motors and Grumman Aerospace. He has also been an active volunteer for the SAE Foundation's *A World in Motion* program since 1992 and is currently the chairman of the Society of Automotive Engineers K-12 Education Committee. He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Detroit, a Master in Business Administration and Master of Science in Applied Statistics from Oakland University, and an M.S. in Strategic Management from Indiana University. He will give the closing keynote *Design for the Road to Independence* and lead the workshop *Magic and the Road Ahead*.



**Leo McCarthy** is a State Farm insurance agent and the founder of [Mariah's Challenge](#), which gives \$1000 college scholarships to Butte teenagers who pledge not to drink while they're underage. In 2007, McCarthy lost his 14-year-old daughter, Mariah, when an underage drunken driver hit her and two of her friends as they walked down a sidewalk near her home in Butte, Montana. To honor his daughter, McCarthy established a foundation in her name and created a nonprofit, Mariah's Challenge, which has awarded over \$225,000 in scholarships to Butte teenagers who were free of MIPs by high school graduation. In 2012, CNN chose McCarthy as one of their top **10 CNN Heroes**: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/11/us/cnnheroes-leo-mccarthy-interview/>. And in 2014, People Magazine ran a story titled **Leo McCarthy Sends Teens Who Pledge Sobriety to College**: <http://www.people.com/article/leo-mccarthy-mariahs-challenge-drunk-driving-college-scholarship>. McCarthy and **Butte Police Sgt. Jimm Kilmer** will give the opening keynote on *Mariah's Challenge*.



**Dr. Shari Willis** achieved her B.S. degree at Northeast Missouri State University in Exercise Science. After much deliberation and a summer at a salmon factory on Kodiak Island she opted to work on her M.S. at Indiana University in College and School Health and Safety Education. She then moved to Connecticut to pursue her teaching career in Ridgefield. She taught Health, PE, and Adapted PE and coached high school swimmers and divers. She later attended the University of Utah for her doctorate in Health Promotion and Education writing her dissertation on hands-free cellular phones and driving. Leaving the snow-capped mountains, she began her university career at Rowan University in New Jersey. She teaches Driver Education and other pedagogy classes primarily to pre-service teachers.

Dr. Willis will give the Monday morning presentation on *Distracted Driving* and lead the workshop *Distracted Driving: In-Class Activities*. Teaching activities will be introduced that can enhance current curriculum. The teaching activities will be modeled and can be easily reproduced. Modifications for the activities will be discussed.

## WORKSHOP LEADERS

**Michael DiBrizzi, Esq.** is currently Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at MSU-Northern in Havre. He retired in 2008 after having served 20 years with the New York City Police Department with the last 13 years serving as a detective. He received a B.S. degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice (City University of NY), a law degree from Seton Hall Univ. School of Law, and a Masters of Law degree from Pace University Law School. He is admitted to practice law in both New York and Montana. He will lead the *Crash Dynamics* workshop.

**Johnelle Sedlock** is the lead Benefits Officer for the Montana Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). She has worked at TRS for the past 13 years. Sedlock works with the active membership from the beginning of their career to when they decide to retire. She will present an overview of retirement benefits and procedures and answer questions regarding the Montana *TRS defined benefit pension program*.

**Clark Wheeler** has been director of Montana Operation Lifesaver since 2008 and lives in Whitefish, MT. He has experience in transportation, trucking, and railroad safety. Montana Operation Lifesaver (*MTOLI*) is a non-profit public information program dedicated to reducing collisions, injuries, and fatalities at highway-rail crossings. *MTOLI* is part of a national program known as Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (*OLI*). He will lead a workshop on *Operation Lifesaver*.

## MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – WORKSHOP LEADERS/SPEAKERS

**Jeffrey Bennett** has taught driver education since 2001, beginning in Whitehall and is currently the driver education instructor at Shields Valley High School in Clyde Park and Park High School in Livingston. He is the 2014 MTEA Teacher of the Year and has been an at-large member of the MTEA board since 2010. Bennett received his B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Montana in 1994. He then started his minor in Traffic Education from MSU-Northern in 2000. He has taught elementary school for 20 years and enjoys technology in and out of the classroom. He will lead a workshop on *In-Car Safety Technology*.

**Charlie Brown** has 33 years of teaching under his belt, the past 22 years at Fairfield High School in Fairfield, Montana where he has been teaching traffic education for the past 18 years. Brown is a past president of MTEA, served as a Class B Rep, a member at large, and is currently serving as MTEA's Legislative Liaison. Brown testified at the 2015 MT Legislature in support of HB 185 to increase funding for Traffic Education. He will co-lead the *Using In-Car Cameras* workshop with Sue Carney and Rich Hanson.

**Susan Carney** teaches Driver Education and Physical Education in Arlee and is an instructor at Montana DRIVE advanced driver workshops in Lewistown. She teaches summer courses to aspiring driver education instructors as an adjunct traffic education instructor at MSU-Northern. She is a past president of MTEA, has served on the board as a class B & C representative, and is currently serving as a member at large. She will co-lead the *Using In-Car Cameras* workshop with Charlie Brown and Rich Hanson.

**Pam Dougherty** began teaching traffic education in Great Falls in 2007. Dougherty also teaches family consumer science and technology. She will co-lead the *Technology Integration in Traffic Education* workshop with Steffani Grogan.

**Steffani Grogan** has taught 25 years in the Forsyth Schools, currently filling the 7-8 Language arts and K-12 technology coordinator positions. She runs the Forsyth driver education program and a summer driver education program in Hysham. Grogan serves on the board as a class B representative and is MTEA's newsletter editor. She will co-lead the *Technology Integration in Traffic Education* workshop with Pam Dougherty.

**Rich Hanson** is an adjunct instructor for Western Oregon University's Traffic Safety Education program. Hanson has been a driver education instructor since 2002 and has been highly involved in developing quality driver education programs throughout Oregon. He was named 2006 Teacher of the Year by ADTSEA and the American Automobile Association. Hanson worked with the Montana Office of Public Instruction and a curriculum committee of traffic educators to revise and update the Montana Teen Driver Education and Training curriculum modules from 2012 to 2014. He will co-lead the *Using In-Car Cameras* workshop with Sue Carney and Charlie Brown.

**Mike Kincaid** is a long time special education teacher in the Missoula area. He has taught driver education since 1994 in Missoula, Philipsburg, Corvallis, and Guam. Kincaid also serves on MTEA's board as a Class AA director from Missoula. He and Myles Laird will lead the *Roundabouts* workshop.

**Harold Lair** has extensive training in crash avoidance and since 1986 has taught advanced driving workshops for the Montana DRIVE Program. He recently retired as a teacher of English and driver education after more than 40 years of teaching, most of them spent in Polson. Lair currently assists the OPI Traffic Education office with on-site reviews of traffic education programs around the state. He has been President of the Montana Traffic Education Association (MTEA) three times, MTEA's Teacher of the Year twice, and ADTSEA's National Driver Educator of the Year. He will co-lead the workshop, *Coaching New Drivers*, with Jerry Olson and present the *State of the State Report* with Fran Penner-Ray.

**Myles Laird** is a special education and driver education teacher in Harlem. He has also taught driver education in several hi-line districts over the years and in 2010 became one of the advanced driving instructors for the Montana DRIVE Workshop program in Lewistown. In addition to teaching, Laird is a substitute bus driver and coach. He and Mike Kincaid will lead the *Roundabouts* workshop.

**Jerry Olson** is a health enhancement and traffic education instructor in Great Falls and at the Montana DRIVE advanced driver workshops in Lewistown. Olson has been a driver education instructor since 2005 and is the creative genius behind the 2013 Buckle Up for Montana seat belt campaign and a BTW Practice Drive booklet that is part of the OPI's Teen Driver Curriculum. Check out his driver education web page: [www.thecoach.com](http://www.thecoach.com). Olson was MTEA's 2012 Montana Traffic Education Teacher of the Year. He will co-lead the *Coaching New Drivers* workshop with Harold Lair.

## **MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION – WORKSHOP LEADERS/SPEAKERS**

**Kristine Thatcher** is the Driver License Bureau Chief of the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) at the Montana Department of Justice. Before being named Bureau Chief, Thatcher was MVD's Great Falls Regional Manager. She began her career in 1991 as a driver license examiner. She works closely with the OPI's Traffic Education Program to administer the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) within Montana's school districts.

**Tammy Stefanik** is the Driver License Bureau Program Specialist (DLB) for the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) at the Montana Department of Justice. Since she started with MVD in 1999 and she has worked with every Bureau in MVD as a driver examiner, management analyst, trainer, and business process improvement specialist. She works closely with Kristine Thatcher on all aspects of program management for the Bureau including systems development. She has a passion for personal development and leadership training.

Thatcher and Stefanik will give the general session on the *Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP)* for traffic education instructors and have two workshops sessions to answer specific questions.

#### **TRAFFIC EDUCATION OFFICE, OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - WORKSHOP LEADERS/SPEAKERS**

**Patti Borneman** started as the Program Specialist for Traffic Education Programs at the Montana Office of Public Instruction in 2011. She assists school districts and traffic education teachers with the OPI's Traffic Education Data & Reporting System, registers drivers for the Montana DRIVE summer workshops in Lewistown, and helps with special projects, such as editing the Montana Roundabout Newsletter, curriculum updates, public communications and outreach, and conference planning and organization. Borneman will co-lead a workshop with Fran Penner-Ray on the OPI's *Traffic Education Data and Reporting System (TEDRS)*.

**Fran Penner-Ray** is Director of Traffic Education at the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) where she has worked in Traffic Education since 2004. Her prior work experience includes positions in education and medical libraries, and as an elected town council member in Colorado. She worked for nine years in an elementary school and volunteered as a planning board member. At the OPI, she provides vision, support, and leadership for schools and communities to improve traffic safety education in an effort to reduce young driver crashes. She will give the *State of the State* presentation with Harold Lair, co-lead the *TEDRS* workshop with Patti Borneman, and lead the *Adapted Manual Revision* workshop with assistance from teachers.