

Winners galore! Our state is full of winners as many of you know firsthand. This newsletter I would like to give a big congratulatory recognition to two of our national recipients.

The National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT) holds the America's Best Training and Skills Competition for technicians and inspectors in the school bus industry. This year this was held in Richmond, Virginia in conjunction with the NAPT annual conference. The 2015 winner of this event is from Tippecanoe School Corporation (TSC) located in Lafayette, Indiana.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kirk Brooks!

Kirk began his interest in the automotive field when he was in junior high school. Later he would see a commercial on television for WyoTech, a technical school in Wyoming, where he decided he wanted to attend. After graduation, Kirk went to work for a local Chevy dealer. While there he learned of an opportunity to work for TSC and has now been there approximately six years.

Kirk won at the state level to advance to the national level. He gives tremendous credit for his state and national win to his boss, Steve Leman. "I couldn't do it without Steve," said Kirk. He calls Steve a great leader. Steve is very good about getting the garage staff training; whether it is online, at a conference or bringing in a resource. Kirk feels this is what sets them apart. And TSC has reason to boast...in 2011 and 2012 Alan Fidler from TSC won first place at this same event!

The competition was fun, offered a lot of experience and some excellent learning opportunities according to Kirk. He said he was surprised he won, as you never know how you will do when measured against those who have done this for a long time. It was Kirk's first trip to Richmond. He took advantage of the small amount of down time he had to explore the area and enjoy the history.

Great job, Kirk! Indiana and S.T.A.I. are very proud of you and your accomplishment!

Historically, Indiana has reason to be proud. Here is the winner list shared by Dwayne Vandiver:

2007 2nd Place Gail Allison Center Grove

2010 2nd Place Chuck Schneidt Tippecanoe

2011 1st Place Alan Fidler Tippecanoe

2012 1st Place Alan Fidler Tippecanoe

2015 1st Place Kirk Brooks Tippecanoe

Our second winner is Ava Fewell whose school bus safety week poster from our own S.T.A.I. contest placed THIRD in Division 4 in the National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest! You will find all of the winners on NAPT's National School Bus Safety Week webpage, <http://napt.org/resources/national-school-bus-safety-week.php>. Ava's national award is a \$50 check.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ava Fewell!

Great job, Ava! Indiana and S.T.A.I. are very proud of you and your accomplishment, too!

Keep it safe, Lynn