



National School Transportation Association

2024 NSTA AWARDS AND INSTALLATION DINNER



2024 NSTA Annual Meeting & Convention

July 23, 2024 | Nashville, TN

JW Marriott—Nashville

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Dear Friends,

It is an honor and pleasure to welcome my fellow National School Transportation Association (NSTA) members, families, friends, and colleagues to the 2024 NSTA Awards and Installation Dinner. Thank you for joining us tonight in recognizing student transportation leaders. NSTA has a long and proud tradition of honoring those who have made valuable contributions to our industry, the students we transport, and to the communities we serve. Tonight, we will present the following awards:

- Distinguished Service Award - In 1992, the NSTA Board of Directors established the Distinguished Service Award. In creating the Distinguished Service Award, the Board wanted to recognize a school bus contractor for recent, significant, substantial, and special contributions to pupil transportation contracting
- Golden Merit Award - created in 1969 to recognize excellence in service, safety, and community responsibility.
- Outstanding Driver Service Award - recognizes school bus drivers who provide exemplary safety performance, a commitment to excellence, and significant contributions to the community.
- Go Yellow, Go Green Award - Created in 2008 to recognize a company leader in the school bus industry, who has demonstrated initiative and commitment in pursuing positive responses to growing environmental concerns.
- Committee Member of the Year – Created in 2023, awarded to an individual committee member, who has demonstrated longstanding dedication and support as a member of an NSTA Standing Committee.
- Committee Chair of the Year – Created in 2023, awarded by the NSTA Executive Committee to honor a committee chairperson, who has exhibited leadership and dedication to NSTA through their committee activities.
- Vendor Partner of the Year – An honor awarded to an NSTA Vendor Partner for commitment to the organization by committee membership, financial support, and providing expertise on important pupil transportation issues.
- Innovator Award (given in conjunction with School Transportation News) - Recognizes an individual who has made significant, tangible contributions to the industry within the past year as an employee of a school bus contractor company.
- Contractor of the Year Award (awarded in conjunction with School Transportation News) – Awarded to an NSTA contractor member company in recognition for service excellence, company culture, and leadership.
- NSTA Hall of Fame – induction into the Hall recognizes long-term commitment and excellence on behalf of the private pupil transportation industry.

Finally, this event would not be possible without the continued effort of many NSTA volunteers. In particular, I would like to thank Chair John Benjamin, Vice Chair Brooke Garcia, and the entire NSTA Awards and Meeting Committee for all they have done to make tonight's celebration a huge success. On behalf of the NSTA Board of Directors, I thank you all for joining us tonight to recognize excellence in our industry, and enjoy your evening.

With best wishes,

Dan Kobussen

NSTA President

NSTA Golden Merit Award

Recognition for excellence in service, safety, and outstanding demonstration of community responsibility.

The National School Transportation Association's Golden Merit Award was established in 1969 to recognize school bus operators for their achievements in safety, driver training, business practices, vehicle maintenance, and superior service to their school districts, communities, and the pupil transportation industry.

2024 NSTA GOLDEN MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Shawn Albright

First Student
Cincinnati, OH

Brent Carpenter

Brown Bus Company
Nampa, ID

PJ Koveloski

Irvin Raphael, Inc.
East Brunswick, NJ

Norm Stableford

Landmark Student
Transportation
Aurora, ON

Gregg Stinson

Student Transportation
of America
Wall, NJ

Brigden Summers

First Student
Cincinnati, OH

Carmen Tomeo

WE Transport
Plainview, NY

Shawn Albright

First Student

Shawn's strong business knowledge and excellent communication skills have enabled him to build strong relationships with his teams, his customers and his industry partners over the years. Shawn has an amazing ability to bring people together to work towards joint solutions.



Over the last several years, Shawn has demonstrated his commitment to student transportation by handling difficult situations ranging from concerned customers to assisting internal teams with their struggles, and he has tackled these situations head-on, Shawn's positivity is infectious, and he goes to our locations, meets with customers and his team, and manages to align everyone on a single game plan to address the issue they encounter. He always leaves our teams and customers feeling more positive and empowered than before.

"Shawn is a 29-year veteran leader in the school bus industry who places his customers before all else. He has led over 3000 employees across seven states in his career. Throughout his time in the industry, Shawn has worked to bring his teams together and deliver the best possible customer experience and has been incredibly successful in doing so. A two-time winner of First Student's Presidential AGM award, given only to the best AGMs in our company, Shawn's customers consistently praise him by name. He has resolved countless issues for them and helped increase customer satisfaction throughout his tenure. Shawn has also led the transition of many of new customers over the years. Shawn's 29 years of contributions to his team, his customers and the school bus industry in general make him a worthy recipient of the NSTA Golden Merit Award."

- Brian Fitzgerald, First Student

Brent Carpenter

Brown Bus Company



Brent Carpenter has been with Brown Bus Company since October 1991, and he holds the position of on-site Operations Manager/Transportation Supervisor for the Nampa operation. Overall, he is responsible for the daily operations there and also serves as an Idaho Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Third-Party Examiner. Additionally, Brent is a Certified Public Accountant, and he served as a charter member, Past-Treasurer, Past-President and Past-Secretary of the Canyon County Sunrise Rotary, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Northwest Christian Credit Union, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Nampa Schools Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors for The Boys and Girls Club of Nampa, a graduate of Leadership Nampa, class of 1997, a member of the Nampa Chamber of Commerce, an active member in the Idaho Association of Pupil Transportation and a current member of the Idaho State Department of Education's Transportation Steering Committee.

Brent's ongoing development of his staff, his dedication to the school bus industry both locally and state-wide for over 33 years, plus his amazing contributions to his community all lead to Brent being an ideal recipient of the NSTA Golden Merit Award.

"As the 2023-2024 school is coming to a close, Brent will be finishing his 32 school year in the student transportation industry, in which during that time, he has driven a school bus, became 3rd Party CDL Skills Tester for the State of Idaho and was the accounting and business manager for Brown Bus Company prior to taking on the role of the local and regional Operations Manager, which is the role he continues to hold today.

One of the key deliverables in student transportation is service and Brent has a proven track record in providing outstanding service in the arena of student transportation to the districts and charter schools and leads and encourages the staff that works with him to do the same.

Another very important deliverable is safety and Brent's focus on safety, whether it be continued improvement to driver training so new drivers are extremely prepared, confident and safe. In he strives to create a culture that safety is a key part of it, whether it is a conversation with a driver, working with and supporting the efforts of dispatch to create safe routes or providing safety meetings that are timely, effective and encouraging.

He strives to give others an opportunity to provide their thoughts and opinions and have a role in operational improvement. He also leads by attempting to share his experience and knowledge gained over 30+ years in student transportation. Brent Carpenter represents everything that is being recognized with this NSTA Golden Merit Award."

- Steve Hemmerlein, North America Central School Bus

PJ Koveloski

Irvin Raphael, Inc.

PJ Koveloski started in the student transportation industry at the age of 17; working at Jersey Bus, one of the largest Blue Bird bus dealerships in New Jersey. He started working in the shop placing buttons and rivets on school bus seats, and then quickly moved up the ladder and became the head service tech at the dealership. When Jersey Bus closed its doors, he transitioned over to HA Dehart and continued his school bus career working on Thomas Built Buses.



PJ began as the shop foreman and soon became the Service Manager., and he has now become a Master Tech certified Thomas Built Buses mechanic and trainer. For the past 15 years, PJ has worked for Irvin Raphael, Inc. as service/facilities manager, and he is the reason the company has been able to grow from 40 buses to over 100, peaking at almost 225 buses with three facilities at one point. His endless knowledge, gained over 25 years of serve, of ever-changing mechanical components and technology in school buses is considerable. PJ serves as mentor to the entry level mechanics in the garage, and he is always willing to assist other fleet managers and bus operators with their mechanical issues. When it comes to camera technology, PJ can be described as an “installation expert, “ and many times other technicians bring incorrect installations to him to be repaired. Often the people that repair vehicles and keep the fleet in peak operating condition are overlooked; PJ is a true master of the school bus in every aspect and a true asset to the industry.

“PJ has been part of the Raphael family for 15 years. He does his job with pride every day whether it is managing our technicians and facility staff, repairing buses, assisting our dispatchers, or installing and reviewing cameras. PJ is truly a family man; everything he does is for his wife Leah and his 3 daughters. After working a long day and an hour long commute he still finds the time to coach softball or basketball depending on the season; and if you want a football stat he is your man. On the most stressful days, PJ always brings the comedic relief. Many times after appearing on the scene of an accident or a breakdown drivers will return to the office relieved that PJ was there and provided assistance. When we say PJ is part of our family he is truly the brother that we never had. He has driven hours to rescue Eric during a medical emergency and when we broke down on a family vacation. He is a true asset to our business and our family.” - Eric Raphael, Irvin Raphael, Inc..

Norm Stableford

Landmark Student Transportation

Norm Stableford began his journey in the school bus transportation industry as an Area Fleet Manager in Ottawa Ontario in 1990. His primary role was to provide maintenance support for the region. In 2003, the Company was purchased by National Express where he served as Area Fleet Manager for over 18 years, then in June 2011, he was reunited with his former colleagues at Landmark Student Transportation. In his current role, Norm supports school bus maintenance for Canadian and United States operations.



Over the years, he has established numerous processes and procedures to benefit school bus safety initiatives such as Wheel and Critical Fastener Policy, Wheel Re-Torque Procedure, Brake Inspector Certification, Internal Technician Assessment Tool and many other tools to help ensure school buses always operate safely.

Over time Norm has built great relationships in the industry and is extremely respected by OEM's, Dealers, Contractors and all his peers. Norm has Earned this Award!

"Norm is known as the "Go To Guy" for all maintenance related items. Norm approach's situations as Teaching Opportunities as he wants to assist in resolution success but wants to ensure you know how to find the information via proper diagnosing the issue then ensure the right parts are ordered.

I have personally seen Norm attend site visits, complete assessments and role out a plan to help the site strive for success. These plans include maintenance SOP for the site, technician training, parts purchase program as well warranty administration assistance.

One of many amazing Community Service items I have seen.... No One pulls of being Santa better than Norm. He grows out his beard and set's up many events where he does not charge for anything... Just Cares & Enjoys doing this! " - Jacob Iverson, Landmark Student Transportation

Gregg Stinson

Student Transportation of America



Gregg Stinson, Senior Vice President of Operations, Northeast Region, for Student Transportation of America (STA) has devoted his 40-year career to serving the student transportation industry. With executive experience in both maintenance and operational capabilities, he has consistently prioritized safety, reliability, and exceptional service throughout his career.

He began his career with Laidlaw in 1984. Prior to joining STA, Gregg was a founding partner of Ocean State Transit, Rhode Island's leading school transportation company, which was acquired by STA in 2011. Before launching Ocean State Transit, Gregg spent 25 years with Laidlaw Transit, Inc., advancing capacities within fleet maintenance. Throughout his tenure with Laidlaw, he collaborated closely with colleagues and various industry and regulatory associations to promote a dedicated focus and commitment to operational safety and enhanced reliability of school bus fleets.

“During his time at Student Transportation of America (STA), Gregg Stinson has spearheaded significant market share expansion through strategic growth initiatives and acquisitions. Alongside this growth, Gregg has ensured the seamless integration of new personnel into STA's Northeast family of operating companies, fostering a cohesive and supportive environment for all stakeholders. Gregg's approach centers on cultivating strategic alliances and forging lasting partnerships, promoting a culture of dedication to employees, customers, and communities.” - Jen Holzapfel, STA

Brigden Summers

First Student

Brigden Summers has always been deeply involved with his teams. He leads by example; whenever there is a crisis, Brigden is always the first on the ground, working directly with the location to resolve the issue. When one of our largest locations lost 100 drivers during the Covid-19 pandemic, Brigden immediately joined his team on the ground, and he worked around the clock to resolve the crisis. He obtained extra financial assistance from our clients so we could provide bonuses and wage increases to our drivers. Recently, Brigden has served as mentor to our Location Manager throughout the process, encouraging her daily. To this day, she remembers how he once told her, "You are not the problem; you are the solution," and those words have helped her through multiple challenges. This example clearly demonstrates how Brigden's leadership empowers his teams. His co-workers all say the same thing— Brigden is their cheerleader, the person who helped them grow the most in their role. First Student is proud to call Brigden Summers, a Golden Merit Award recipient.

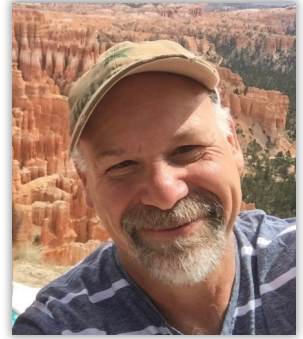


"Brigden has always been deeply involved with his teams. He leads by example; whenever there is a crisis, he is always the first on the ground, working with the location to resolve the issue. When one of our largest locations lost 100 drivers during COVID-19, Brigden immediately joined his team on the ground. He worked around the clock to resolve the crisis. He obtained extra financial assistance from our clients so we could provide bonuses and wage increases to our drivers. He also mentored Location Manager throughout the process, encouraging her daily. To this day, she remembers how he once told her, "You are not the problem; you are the solution." Those words have helped her through multiple challenges! This is just one example of how Brigden's leadership empowers his teams. They all say the same thing: Brigden is their cheerleader, the person who helped them grow the most in their role. I can't think of a better candidate for a Golden Merit award! - Kim Worster, First Student

Carmen Tomeo

WE Transport

Carmen Tomeo was nominated for the NSTA Golden Merit Award for his exemplary contributions to the student transportation industry. Carmen's dedication, leadership, and commitment to service and safety have profoundly impacted our organization and community. Starting in the 1970s at his father's company, Tomfor Transportation, Carmen quickly mastered the industry's intricacies. His journey from handling various tasks in the shop to leading WE Transport since 1997 showcases his comprehensive understanding and passion for excellence. A true team player, Carmen collaborates closely with all departments to deliver exceptional service and implements strategic plans effectively. His leadership, characterized by mentorship, innovation, and empowerment, inspires excellence across our team. Carmen's meticulous attention to detail and dedication to family values instilled by the Marksohn's family underline his remarkable legacy. With great admiration and respect, WE Transport congratulates Carmen on receiving the prestigious NSTA Golden Merit Award, in celebration of his lasting legacy and leadership in the school bus industry.



“Carmen Tomeo has long been a champion of diversity and community support, consistently displaying our values not only in words but in action. He was among the first to donate buses for various organizational parades and always stepped up to aid families in need, offering transport services and gifts. During Christmas, Carmen ensured that underprivileged children could visit Santa and see festive displays. When a United Cerebral Palsy residence faced a heating crisis, he quickly delivered emergency heating oil. A regular donor to the Red Cross, Carmen responds swiftly to crises, exemplifying his commitment to actively making a difference in the lives of those we serve.”
—Jim Ring, Beacon Mobility

Golden Merit Award Past Recipients

Percy L. Abbott · Arthur and Norma Acuncius · Frank Albright · Robert R. Alderfer · Scott Allen · Kitty Anderson · Christopher Angell · David Armitt · William Augustus · Robert Avila · Lucille Ayotte · Robert Baldwin · W. R. Baliff · Kenneth Ballou · Lydell Banks · John Barnes · Lee Barnes · Don Barthel · Roland Bast · Bill Bauck · Rob Bauman · Robert D. Beach · Greg and Scott Beach · Dona Beauchea · John W. Beebe · George Beck · Bill Beck · Ed Beck · Thomas W. Beck · Phillip L. Beckham, Jr. · John Benish Sr. · John Benish, Jr. · Benjamin Bus, Inc. · Carl Benz · Otto Berchtold · Gail Bergstrom · Roscoe Bernard · Shaun G. Berry · Noel Biery · Frank L. Black · Robert and Susan Black · Blaise Bodway · Dolores Bolaños · Gregory J. Bonnett · W.M. Boucher · Bill Boyle · Doug Bradley · Leo Bradley · Robert M. Brant · Ralph Brown · Scott Bruegge · Arnold Butterbaugh · Richard Byrne · Michael A. Cappuccio · Pam Capuano · Eloyse Carney · George and Barbara Carr · Judy Carroll · Beth Ann Carton · Burton Carver · Tom Casey · Gary Catapano · Howard Chancellor · Florence L. Chumley · Herbert and Roland Clark · Mike Clark · Kevin Clifford · Linda Coates · Robert Lee Cohen · Teresa Cole · Calvin L. Compton, Sr. · Calvin Compton, Jr. · John J. Corrado · Joan and Seth Corwin · Joseph Cottrell · Daniel Coyne · Leonard Ciufu · Burtt Cummings · Mike Dacy · Leander Daun · Darlene Davis · Tom Dawson · William Dawson · Lee Dean · Lynn Deason · Edward F. DeGere · James DeVeau · Magda Dimmendaal · Bruce Dischinger · Carla Dodd · Fred Doelker · Barbie Doherty · Robert Doorley · Murray Dorsey · John Dufour · David Duke · Dale Duley · Fred “Dutch” Dunn · Loretta Dunn · J. B. “Buck” Durham · Larry K. Durham · Durham Topeka Customer Service Center · John Edney · Howard Elder · Wilbur Evenson · F. Fallert · Ray Fattore · Kirk Flach · Douglas Flatt · Tim Flood · Denise Foote · Elmar Foreman · Donnie Fowler · Sal P. Guadagna · Clarence “Corky” Gast · Robert Gaug · Joseph Gilbert, Sr. · Norman Goodrow · Roy Gould · Robert Graf · George G. Gregory · Scott Greenstreet · Laura Greene-Halley · Warren Gumbs · Tim Gunn · Bob Hach · Don Hagey · Dorothy Haines · Shelly Hall · Joseph L. Hamilton · Dennis Hammell · Richard Hammell · Clyde Hanson · Kevin Hansen · Keith Harms · Enoch Harris · Leland F. Harris · R. W. Harmon & Sons · Dick Harney · Bobbie Hartman · Robert Hatchett · Ed Havlik · E. P. Hayes · John Heckadon · Paula Heinowski · Kay Hemstreet · Tyna Henderson · Laurie Henner · Richard Hendricks · Mike Hennek · Clarence Henry · Charles Hey · Marvin Hey · Steve Hey · Lyle C. Hicks · Brian M. Higginbotham · Sandra Higgins · Carl Hilgenberg · John Hill · Ken Hill · Janine Hilliard · Kay and Robert Hines · George H. Hoenes, Jr. · Don Hoffman · Gordon and Jennie Hogle · Gene Hottenstein · Cynthia Houk · Frederick Howard · Ron Howard · Spencer Howes · Tom Î. Hubbard · Cal Hull · Robert Hunt · Emma Hussey · Thomas Hyatt · Paul Hyman · Gail Wilson Hyser · Joanne Ivory · John Jacob, Jr. · Don and Lawrence Jensen · Ralph M. Jett · Jim Johansen · Elmer Johnson · Irene Johnson · B. W. Jones · Leonard Jones · J. Wesley Jones · Karen L. Jones · Randall E. Jubb · Kevin Kalberer · Dick Kammes · Henry J. Kaufmann · Irwin M. Katz · Bob Keifer · William and Jim Keiffer · Patricia Kinsey · Donald D. Kissell · Rick Klaus · Louis A. Klug, Sr. · Jim Kobussen · Judy Koch Dale and Dallas Krapf · Harvey and Willard Krohn · Michael Krois · Robert Krueger · Beatrice Kunde · Jim Kunkel · Ron Kurth · Richard Kuss · William Luddy · Lyle Lamers · Don Lamoreaux · Keith Galloway · Gerladine Lange · Lowell Laper · Steve Laputka · Ed Larson · Nicholas Lauella · Alma Lawrence · Ted Leclerc · Harold B. Lee · Kenneth Lee · Albert LeFevre · Ray A. Leibensperger · Russ Leibensperger · Kenneth Lenz · Keytha Levanas · Francis Levett · Dean Lewis · H.E. Lindegaad · John Lockwood · John Loeb · Bill Loshbough · Paul Loss ·

Golden Merit Award Past Recipients

Frank Luciano · Al Lynch · James D. Lynch · Gordon Malchow · George Marschall · Joseph J. Marshall · Kyle Martin · Mary Mazzocchi · Tom McBride · Sean McCabe · Earl F. McComb · Tom McEnany · Shawn McGlinchey · Dawn McGrath · Bruce McKee · Jessica McMillion · Rhonda McKown · Jim Marshall · Colleen McKay · John Medeiros · L. W. Merrill · Thomas Merrill · William B. Messmaker · A. Meyers · James A. Meyers · Louis Meyer · Donald F. Mice · Adam Milewski · Connie Miller · George Miller · Roger and Karen Millner · Chuck Moore · Leo Moran · Todd Monteferrario · DeAnne Montella · Susan Moorehead · Paul Quinn Mori · Linda Mueller · Thomas and Genevieve Mullnix · John Murphy · Henry Muthig · Charles Napier · Carolyn D. Neder · George Neder · Virgil Neitzel · Donna Nelson · Ludolph Nelson · Rob Nelson · Crystal Neuman · Carl J. Neumann · Kathy Nichols · Paul and Loretta Nistler · Millard Nord, Jr. · Carina Noble · Mike Nolte · Bette Norris · Steve Odegard · Phil O'Donnell · Kevin Orzechowski · Lemon Owens, Jr. · Wendell L. Owens · John Pace · Al Pahlke · Lorraine Pahlke · Phillip S. Paige · Floyd Palmer · James Palmeri, Jr. · Scott Parker · William N. Patterson, Jr. · Thomas Patti · Donald Pedersen · Mrs. Bernard L. Peterson · George Peterson · Stephen J. Phillips · Larry Pierce · Wilfred "Bill" Pike · George Pinks · Michael Pipenhagen · Richard Plahn · Jack Polt · Andrew L. Posheer · Jim Prang · Ray M. Proutt · Robert Pudlewski · Dwight Putzake · Denise Quezada (Diaz) · Metta Fay Radcliffe · Roco Raga · Robert F. Ramsdell · Edward and Dee Rassier · Tom Ready · Don Regan · Patrick Regan · Leonard Reiche · Jesse Reid · Robert Reid · Gary Remster · Kevin Rhine · Ronald J. Rick · Ronald J. Rick, Jr. · Donald Ridsdill · Alan Riedel · Martin J. Riiska · Vincent Riley · John Ritchie · Leon Robinson · Bill Roche · Marlan Rohlene · Patti Royce-Moser · Brian Rutford · Bob Rutkoski · Raymond St. George · Liz Sanchez · Ester Sanford · Anthony Sansone · Jack Sawl · Wilfred Schmitt · Stephen Schmuck · Jim and Loretta Schooley · Edward C. Schuett · David C. Schultz · Nancy Schulz · Helen Schwabacher · Lisa Serra · Mathew Serpa · Michael J. Settle · William Seyfarth · James W. Shafer, Jr. · Joyce Sharp · Nancy Sheldon · Marvin Shipley · William J. Shockley · Brian Shuldberg · Betty Shurbert · Fred Shurbert · Fred Shurbert · Joah Siegler · Michelle Simon · Charles M. Simonsen · Donald Sinke · Marion Skaggs · Trudy Skinner · Mike Sloan · Jerry Smith · Jim Smith · Milton Smith · R. C. Smith · Daniel R. Snyder · Robert Southcott · Ken and Tami Spanier · Willie Spence · Lee Stahl · Dwain Stahlke · Loren and Shirley Stier · Greg Stock · Lubke Storry · Russ Stratton · Jack Stream · David J. Strong · Natalie Strong · Mike Sullivan · Don Suttleham · Susan Tapp · Marilyn Tasaka · Wes Tangen · Larry Temple · Richard Templeton · Delores Teixeria · Raymond N. Thomas · Mark Thompson · Paul K. Thompson, Sr. · Brian Thrasher · Allyn Tidball · Bernie Tooksberry · Vernon Trigg · Howard Trivelpiece · Toney Trobec · Frank Trombly · John Turney · Glenn S. Tysko · Glenn S. Tysko · Mary Ann Tysko · Walter Unda · Frank D. Valcheck · Phil Vallone · Edward Van Artsdalen · Jack Van Cleef · Terry Van Der Aa · Harold Vander Veen · Tony Vidrine · Michael Wagner · Timothy J. Wallace · Laura Warren · Joanne Waterhouse · Tom Weathers · Arthur B. Weber · Thomas Weeks · Max L. Weiner · Roger J. Welch · James West · Mansfield Whitney · Keith Wilcox · Kirk Wilkie · B. Riley Williams · Chloe Williams · David Willis · Gary Wilson · James "Jimmy" Wilson · John Wilson, Jr. · Richard E. Wilson · Gene Wittenberger · Rick Wolff · Jack Worthington · Ted Wyman · Bill Young · William Young ·

NSTA Outstanding Drivers

Recognition for exemplary safety performance and a commitment to

In January 2002, the NSTA Board of Directors and Awards and Meetings Committee initiated an award to honor the men and women who have done exemplary jobs as drivers and role models for their communities. The award is given to individuals who consistently provide unsurpassed service and dedication to students and the communities they serve.

2024 NSTA OUTSTANDING DRIVER SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Wing Hang Chiu

Dell Transportation
Hempstead, NY

Kathy Kapsy

Dousman Transport Company
Hartland, WI

Laura Sedlock

Tri County Transportation
Northern Cambria, PA

Joan Shenk

Shultz Transportation
Willow Street, PA

Frank Shephard

First Student
Cincinnati, OH

Past Recipients

Elizabeth Bamberger · Linda Bower · Raychole Brown · Sonia Campos · Bruce Chamberlin · Tiesha Donner · Theordis Hurkes · Ernestene Hutson · James Larry · Alfred "Al" Lewis · Robyn Legan · Christie McDevitt · Sarah Michalak · Barb Moore · Carlton Murray · Peggy Nieuwenhuis · Doug Payelle · Alice Praud · Olga Quezada · Tami Rice · Monica Solis · Ford Thompson · Jan VandenHeuvel · Carol Vosters · Stan Werling

Wing Hang Chiu

Dell Transportation

Wing Hang Chiu has spearheaded positive change within the Dell Transportation hub by making safety advocacy his priority. Through face-to-face driver training, he has effectively communicated the importance of safe driving practices to our drivers.— demonstrating a focus on Driver Safety.



Instructional Leadership: Wing Hang continues to play a vital role in our operation, as he leads CDL permit instruction, Basic Course Instruction, and Advanced instruction. Overall, his profound commitment to excellence ensures that our drivers receive the highest quality training.

Community Engagement: Wing Hang's willingness to assist neighboring school districts, such as Herricks School District and Great Neck school districts, demonstrates his dedication to the broader pupil transportation community.

Professional Development: Although Wing Hang has not yet instructed at the state level, he is a rising star. His aspiration to become a Master Instructor for the state of New York reflects his commitment to continuous improvement.

Credentials: Wing Hang holds essential certifications, including being an Article 19-a Department of Motor Vehicle examiner, a New York State Education School Bus Driver Instructor.

“In summary, Wing Hang exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding pupil transportation professional. His passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment make him a deserving candidate for the Outstanding Driver of the Year Award.”

-Willie Gibbs, Huntington Coach Corporation

Kathy Kapsy

Dousman Transport Company

If you ask her, Kathy Kapsy has many fond memories regarding the fun things about bus driving, in particular that students will say the funniest things. She once told a kindergartener, on the last day of school, that he was going to have a lot of fun that day and he would just need to clean out his desk. The boy jumped out of his seat, came over to her, looked me straight in the eye and responded, "How did you know my desk was dirty?"



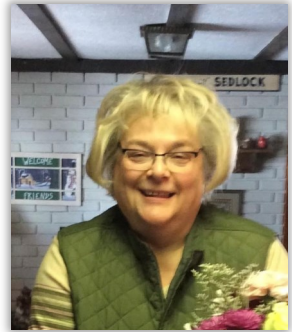
Kathy started driving the bus after her daughter was born, as she no longer wanted to put 55 hours a week into a job where she was disconnected from family. She wanted to devote time to enjoying each step of her daughter's development. Driving a bus gave Kathy the flexibility to spend quality time with her daughter and family. Over time, the community and Dousman became her family, and she has seen many students start from kindergarten and graduate high school.

"Kathy embodies what it means to be a servant leader. Kathy drives both morning and afternoon routes, trains drivers, and managed the safety program for years which has led to an overall reduction in the number of accidents throughout the ten terminals at Dousman Transport. Kathy's communication skills are superior, and it is her ability to reach people at their level that accounts for the successes we see in both training and safety. Kathy has always been able to find the good in people and is always there when a driver, mechanic, or manager needs a helping hand or just a shoulder to lean on. Her years with Dousman Transport have resulted in decades of drivers taking care of children safely, making the experience one that drivers and children alike have found both fun and rewarding. Kathy started with the company in 1997, and now 27 years later she still has an outstanding driving record and possesses the zeal and drive that has made her such an asset to the company and the community." - Lisa Burd, Dousman Transport Company

Laura Sedlock

Tri County Transportation

Laura Sedlock has consistently demonstrated excellence as a school bus driver for Tri County Transportation. Her excellence, regardless of weather or driving activity, can be evidenced in how she safely responds to road conditions, traffic environments, and student management.



With 46 years of service, she has never had an accident or a complaint. She has endeavored to never leave a child behind or fail to pick one up. Laura's dedication to the community she loves encourages her to drive year-round. She has always maintained a regular route, as well as volunteering for activities, field trips, after-school activities, and summer programs. Finally, Laura's attendance is unparalleled at Tri County, only taking days as necessary for illness or vacation.

“Laura Sedlock is well known throughout the Northern Cambria community, having lived here all her life. Not only is she a long-time school bus driver for the school district where she graduated, but Laura can be seen transporting the Northern Cambria School District football team or band to their events. You can also see her cheering for the Colts in the stands. She loves to watch the students play and is always being requested to transport the team to their events.

As one of our first drivers at Tri County Transportation, Laura is still with us after 46 years. She cares about the job. The students, families, and school district personnel know well Laura. She always greets her students with a smile and the students enjoy and respect her. We are extremely pleased and appreciative to have her on our team.”

- Amanda Horvath, Tri County Transportation

Joan Shenk

Shultz Transportation

Joan Shenk celebrated her 45th year working for Shultz this year and is the gold standard for safety, attendance, and timeliness that makes a great school bus driver. Without fanfare, Joan tends to her responsibilities as a driver, and she represents the best qualities of a school bus driver. The other drivers look up to Joan, and she continues to make a positive impact on students' lives.



“Joan is one of those drivers that you never hear anything negative out of. She shows up for work every day and provides quality service to our customer every single day. Joan is the gold standard for safety, attendance and timeliness that all school bus drivers should strive for.” - Matt Albaugh, Shultz Transportation

2024 NSTA OUTSTANDING DRIVER SERVICE AWARDS

SPONSORED BY:



Frank Shephard

First Student

With an impressive 27 years of accident-free experience behind the wheel of a school bus, Frank Shephard has honed his skills and expertise to become an exceptional driver. His unwavering dedication to the children, schools, and community distinguishes him as a remarkable asset to our transportation team.



Frank's passion for community service is evident in his active involvement, volunteering his time to read books to children in classrooms, leading food drives at our Tacoma locations, and participating in our annual "Stuff the Bus" event. Frank represents all of the best qualities for an NSTA Outstanding Driver Service Award.

“One of Frank's outstanding initiatives is his engagement with the students during special events like Dr. Seuss week. He organizes a captivating Dr. Seuss event on his bus, fostering a love for reading among the children. Frank's commitment extends beyond the wheel of the bus as he purchases Dr. Seuss books for his students, encouraging them to read and enjoy the wonders of literature.

Frank's dedication to community service was further highlighted when he had the Mayor of Tacoma ride the bus with him during the "Stuff the Bus" event. Together, they collected supplies around the community, demonstrating Frank's leadership and commitment to making a difference.

Frank consistently brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our team, always striving to find innovative ways to support the community and enhance the educational experience of the students. His genuine care for the well-being and development of the children he transports is truly commendable.”

-Greg Newman, First Student

NSTA Go Yellow, Go Green Award

The **NSTA Go Yellow, Go Green Award** recognizes a company leader in student transportation who demonstrates initiative and commitment in pursuing positive responses to growing environmental concerns.

A single award may be presented annually to the National School Transportation Association member company, through corporate practice and industry leadership, best demonstrates the principles of National School Transportation Association **Go Yellow, Go Green** campaign.

Go Yellow, Go Green is a national campaign to promote the greater use of school buses as a viable response to the twin problems of air pollution and excessive fuel usage. By replacing an average 36 personal vehicles on each trip to and from school, one school bus can significantly reduce total carbon emissions and total fuel usage. In addition, the campaign encourages cleaner operation of school buses through idle-reduction, retrofits, bus replacements, and technology.

2024 NSTA GO YELLOW, GO GREEN RECIPIENTS

**Student Transportation
of America**
Wall, NJ

**Cook Illinois
Corporation**
Oak Brook, IL

Past Recipients

Cook-Illinois Corporation
Durham School Services LP
George Krapf Jr. & Sons Company
Riteway Bus Service, Inc.

First Student, Inc.
Go Riteway Transportation Group
National Express LLC
The Trans Group, LLC

Student Transportation of America

Wall, NJ

STA's longstanding commitment to innovation and the environment has placed the company at the forefront of the school transportation industry in the use of biofuel advancements, and now electric vehicle (EV) technology. STA set the bar for school bus alternatives in 2012 when we earned our largest bid with Omaha and Millard Public Schools in Nebraska.



STA purchased more than 400 new, propane-powered vehicles, the largest all-propane school bus fleet in the industry at that time. The following year, STA received the Sustainability All-Star Award for our leadership in running low-emission vehicles. The company continued to expand its "Green Fleet" initiative in markets across the country—including New England and Pennsylvania, introducing the first all-propane fleet in St. Paul (MN), the youngest and largest LPG fleet in Grand Junction (CO), bringing propane buses to Oregon with contracts in Canby, Lake Oswego, and Tigard, adding alternative fuel vehicles to our operational density with Los Angeles Unified School District.

In 2019, STA began making investments in our electric vehicle initiative, and they continue to lead the industry with alternate powertrain and EV technology with their current EV pilot initiative in select rural, suburban, and urban markets. Through funding provided by a variety of grants, incentive projects, and partnerships such as the Vermont Energy Invest Corporation, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and the Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Project (HVIP), STA aims to earn real-world intelligence from our pilot experience with EV battery life, generalized vehicle wear and tear, and other critical KPIs, and the company continues doing its due diligence and making investments now to track EV technology, enabling STA to act and continue to serve as the industry leader. STA works with vehicle and charging station manufacturers, as well as utility companies and other suppliers of the infrastructure needed to support a fleet of electric vehicles in order to address the total cost of fleet ownership. The company continues to pursue these initiatives so that electric vehicles can be widely adopted in the school transportation realm.



Cook Illinois Corporation

Oak Brook, IL

Biodiesel and renewable diesel are produced from renewable feedstocks like soybean oil and used cooking oils with different processes. They both can be used in place of petroleum-based diesel without any changes to vehicle engines.² Research has shown that biodiesel can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gases by 86% and particulate matter by 47% compared to petroleum-based diesel.

Those advantages caught the attention of John Benish, Jr., president and chief operating officer of Cook-Illinois Corporation, the sixth largest school bus contractor in the United States. A second-generation executive of the family-owned-and-operated company, he started powering his bus fleet with biodiesel blends in 2005, and he hasn't looked back.



**COOK-ILLINOIS
CORPORATION**

Benish's father began ferrying school children in the rapidly expanding Chicago area in 1958. From then through the 1990s, John remembers the plume of black smoke that would rise above the iconic yellow school buses when the driver started the engine. Cook-Illinois Corporation and its 19 subsidiary companies strongly believe in using biodiesel blends up to B20 because it provides an alternative fuel supply that is dependable and plentiful. Through Cook-IL's use of more than 2 million gallons of B11 and B20 biodiesel annually, the family-owned and operated company is able to provide a valuable market for farmers' products while also reducing emissions and providing a safer environment for the students they transport each day.



The mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of it’s founder Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.



St. Jude is dedicated to treating kids with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. In addition to patient treatment, St. Jude is focused on cutting-edge research to help us better understand pediatric cancer and how to treat it. Each day, they are working toward a cure, so every child who comes to them can be given their best chance to grow up.

Danny Thomas opened the doors to St. Jude in 1962 with the dream that “no child should die in the dawn of life.” Since then, St. Jude has helped push the overall survival rate from 20% to more than 80%, and we won't stop until no child dies from cancer.

How Can You Help?

Charity Fundraiser—Heads or Tails Game

Please place \$20 (or more) in the envelope in the middle of the table. Once the game is announced, please stand up and place your hands on either your “head” or your “tail.” Our emcee will flip a coin and depending upon where you placed your hands (heads or tails), you are either still in the game or you are out. We will continue the game until there is one winner, and that winner will receive a \$250.00 Visa Gift Card and remainder of the donations received will go to ***St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital***.

NSTA Committee Member of the Year

Awarded to an NSTA Committee Member, who has gone above and beyond expectations in fulfilling their committee service responsibilities, as well as representing the Association. The nominated committee member needs to have served on an active committee for at least two successive years.

2024 NSTA COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Keith Galloway

VP of Logistics and Business Development, Student
Transportation of America
NSTA Business Development Committee and
NSTA Membership Committee
Coventry, RI

“I’ve had the pleasure of serving on numerous NSTA committees for the last five years. I can attest that this organization brings both passion and expertise to the table to make a tangible difference within the student transportation industry. Peers, partners, and competitors are sharing impactful ideas and finding solutions to promote greater safety, security, cost-effectiveness, and environmental responsibility. We’re working together to elevate the way we do business, and that’s a wonderful thing.”
-Keith Galloway, Senior Vice President, STA



Keith Galloway

Student Transportation of America

The winner of the second-ever NSTA Committee Member of the Year Awards is Keith Galloway of Student Transportation of America. He is currently serving as Senior Vice President of Mergers & Acquisitions and Business Development for the company and has been a familiar face at NSTA live events over the years.



Keith is a seasoned professional in the school bus transportation industry, having begun his career with a family owned company, Galloway School Lines, Inc., in 1983. The family sold Galloway School Lines to Laidlaw in 1992, and Keith continued to develop his strength in leadership while at Laidlaw/First Student, holding several positions including Branch Manager, District Director of Operations, Area General Manager, and Director of Business Development. He joined Durham School Services in 2010 as an Area General Manager, responsible for six Customer Service Center locations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and Keith served as the Director of Business Development and Acquisitions for the Eastern United States for National Express from 2011 to June 2018 at which time he joined Student Transportation of America as VP of M&A and Business Development.

In addition to his school bus experience, Keith is an honored veteran—having served in the US Army and in the US Air Force National Guard.

Keith serves on the NSTA Business Development Committee and is a member of the Data Acquisition Subcommittee of BDC. He also is a member of the NSTA Membership Committee and provides the organization with keen insight—while serving in both roles. Additionally, he can be counted upon to assist our advocacy efforts by participating in the NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In.

NSTA Committee Chair of the Year

Awarded by the NSTA Executive Committee to a current NSTA Committee Chair - who has exhibited excellence in leadership, innovation, and commitment in their role as a leader in the organization. This individual must have served in their as role chair of an NSTA committee for at least two years.

2024 NSTA COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE YEAR

Kellie Dean

President, Dean Transportation
NSTA Board of Directors Member
and Business Development Committee Chair
Lansing, MI

“Kellie Dean has been an inspirational leader and indispensable asset for NSTA. Over the years, Kellie could be counted upon to tackle projects and issues for the organization, and he does so by harnessing the power of collaboration. As leader of the Business Development Committee, Kellie’s keen insight and strong organizational skills have allowed NSTA to address important areas of focus, as well as create a vision for the future.”

-Dan Kobussen, NSTA President



Kellie Dean

Dean Transportation

Kellie Dean, CEO of Dean Transportation, is the 2024 NSTA Committee Chair of the Year. For over 50 years, Dean Transportation has driven passengers across the state of Michigan with safety, compassion and comfort in mind at every turn. Under his leadership, Dean has become one of the largest privately owned transportation companies in the country. The company's motto, "No matter who you are or where you're going, we'll get you there," embodies the spirit of its leader. As the longtime chair of the NSTA Business Development Committee, Kellie's role in shaping NSTA policies and priorities is undeniable. The committee embarked on a visionary Private Market Share—Data Acquisition Project several years ago, and it became a springboard for other projects across several NSTA committees. Kellie remains passionate about private school bus contracting, and that passion spawned the original Outsourcing Student Transportation Service (OSTS) Toolkit, as well as its rebranding over the past few years. Never one to rest on his laurels, Kellie and BDC embarked on a "Why Contract?" tab to be hosted on the NSTA website, as an extension of the OSTS Toolkit.



NSTA Vendor Partner of the Year

Awarded to an NSTA Vendor Partner who has offered superior support to NSTA through committee service, financial commitment, and educational contributions to the organization, as well as student transportation as a whole. The nominee shall be an NSTA Vendor Partner company in good standing for at least the past three consecutive years.

2024 NSTA VENDOR PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Transfinder
Schenectady, NY

transfinder



Transfinder

Antonio Civitella, Owner



Transfinder's mission is to provide superior value for their clients by delivering faster, safer and smarter solutions. Transfinder has built the safest, most efficient transportation management and communication solutions designed for school districts and municipal governments and their stakeholders. The company combines its superior solutions with its award-winning service, establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with every client that is built upon respect, confidence, integrity and mutual trust. Used extensively by more than 2,000 school districts and municipalities in 47 states, Transfinder is the industry leader in several states, including Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Mississippi, New York, and Texas. The company also holds approved vendor status in Idaho and Illinois.

“Transfinder has become one of the most active member of NSTA. The company can be counted upon to attend and participate in our live meetings. By their actions, Transfinder demonstrates that it wants what is best for the industry, and even if their product is not a good fit for a specific company, they continue to ask questions to understand the company needs and makes suggestions for the better of the business.”

-Chloe Williams, President, B.R. Williams

NSTA Contractor of the Year Award



*Recognition for service excellence, company culture and an industry leader—awarded annually to a NSTA contractor member company. NSTA took over awarding this honor in 2022, partnering with **School Transportation News (STN)**, to highlight an outstanding NSTA contractor member company for their hard work and dedication to their employees, and the student transportation industry.*



2024 CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

Palmer Bus Service

Past Recipients

George W. “Bill” Beck · Otto Berchtold · Bill Betzold · Kevin Clifford · John Corr · Joan and Seth Corwin · Joe Cottrel · Kellie Dean · Dean Transportation · Michael G. DeGroote · James DeVeau · Magda Dimmendaal · Murray Dorsey · David Duke · Larry Durham · John Elliott, Sr. · Mike Ely · Kevin Endres · Karen Finkel · Douglas Flatt · First Student · Tim Flood · Donald Fowler · Clarence Geiger · Denis Gallagher · Robert “Bob” Hach · R. W. Harmon · Richard · Harney · Chuck Hey · George E. Krapf Jr. · Blake Krapf · Dale Krapf · Dan, Ann & Joe Kobussen · Ed Larson · Lee Larson · Bud Lee · Robin Leeds · John Murphy · John Nolan · Phillip S. Paige · Paul Peterson · Larry Pierce · Leon Robinson · Theodore Schaefer · Peter Settle · Mel Sherman · Lyle Stephens · Barry Stock · Terry Thomas · J. W. “Skip” Tinnen · Michael Tornabe · Michael Wagner · B. Riley Williams · Terry Van Der Aa · Gary Zeh

Palmer Bus Service

Palmer Bus Service is the 2024 NSTA Contractor of the Year recipient. The company has committed to a more sustainable future for the school bus industry. Embracing alternative fuel options for their sizable bus fleet has been a priority for Shane Johnson, COO of Palmer Bus Service as he understands the complexities and challenges faced by contractors in today's climate. Utilizing a unique renewable natural gas (RNG) solution dubbed the "CowFartBus" Shane continued to be a leader in the state of



Minnesota by showcasing a new-to-market technology that does not require contractors to purchase new diesel buses, allowing alternative fuel to become more accessible to districts and contractors of all sizes. Shane's leadership in Minnesota generated interest from other bus operators across the state as Palmer Bus displaced a portion of their diesel fuel with cleaner, more affordable renewable natural gas.

"During a media day on a cold December morning, Shane Johnson pulled in local authorities, media personnel and vendors from across the Mankato, Minnesota area as Palmer Bus Service highlighted their pilot program with the "CowFartBus". The name drew several laughs from the audience and maybe even a few sneers, however, once Shane explained how renewable natural gas, which can be sourced from cow waste, was helping reduce diesel fuel usage and improving air quality for the children riding the pilot buses, those in attendance got the picture, especially as Shane explained that Palmer Bus Service could use their existing, in-service buses to become better environmental stewards immediately. Shane is a thought-leader and an integral part of the Mankato community, and he was excited to announce this pilot program and showcase how Palmer Bus Service is looking into the future!"

-Russell Schindler, CowFart Bus

NSTA Distinguished Service Award

Recognition of recent special contributions to pupil transportation contracting

In 1992, the NSTA Board of Directors established the Distinguished Service Award. In creating the Distinguished Service Award, the Board wanted to recognize a school bus contractor for recent, significant, substantial, and special contributions to pupil transportation contracting.

2024 NSTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

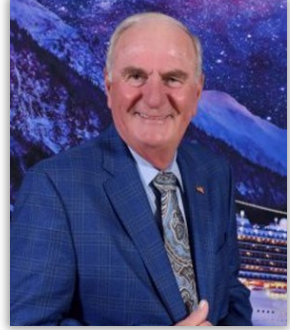
Bob Pape
Dell Transportation
Port Washington, NY



Bob Pape

Dell Transportation

Bob Pape began his work in the student transportation industry 48 years ago, and performed his duties with vigor and passion. Most recently, he served as Chief Financial Officer of Dell Transportation in Nassau, NY since 2005. While delivering a great service to his districts and communities, Bob also became a past president of the National Association for Pupil Transportation and a founder of the NAPT Foundation. He provided leadership as Finance Committee Chair for the National School Transportation Association. He also served as past president of the New York School Bus Contractors Association and still found time to serve as one of the founding fathers of the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute (PTSI).



“When Bob decided to leave a career in banking, and pursue a career serving the students of his communities, Bob went all in!”
- Jim Ring, Beacon Mobility



NSTA Hall of Fame

Recognition for excellence in long-term efforts on behalf of the pupil transportation industry.

In 1992, NSTA established the Hall of Fame in order to recognize special contribution that many fine and talented NSTA members have made, and are making, to the school transportation industry. This award recognizes excellence in long-term efforts on behalf of the pupil transportation industry.

2024 NSTA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Bart Marksohn

Former Owner, WE Transport
Plainview, NY

Patrick Vaughan

Chief Executive Officer, Student Transportation of America
Wall, NJ

Past Inductees

Roscoe Bernard · Noel Biery · John Benish, Jr. · Kevin J. Clifford · John Corr · Bill Dawson · Kellie Dean · Jim DeVeau · Magda Dimmendaal · Larry K. Durham · John R. Edney · J. B. Edwards · John A. Elliott · Douglas H. Flatt · Tim Flood · Jim Folkes · Donnie Fowler · Richard Hammell · Chuck Hey · Marvin Hey · Don Hoffman · Gail Hyser · Jim Johansen · Bob Keifer · James Kobussen · Blake Krapf · Dale N. Krapf · Dallas L. Krapf · Don Lamoreaux · Ed Larson · Ray Leibensperger · Bill Loshbough · Kyler Martin · Roger Millner · John Nolan · Richard Owens · Al and Lorraine Pahlke · Carey Paster · Charles Peterson · Larry Pierce · Robert T. Pudlewski · Jesse Reid · Leon Robinson · Fred Shurbert · Barry Stock · David and Natalie Strong · Terry Thomas · Vern Trigg · Terry Van Der Aa · Stan Weber · John Wilson · Richard I. Wolfington

Bart Marksohn

WE Transport

Bart Marksohn of We Transport is honored for induction in the NSTA Hall of Fame, recognizing his lifelong dedication to student transportation. Growing up in a family deeply rooted in the business, Bart's commitment began early, driving routes as soon as legally possible. Known for his energetic presence and humor, Bart creates a warm, inclusive atmosphere at WE Transport, genuinely caring for the well-being of his staff. A memorable example of his kindness was when he surprised his hardworking team with an ice cream truck during a tough period, uplifting everyone's spirits. Bart's significant contributions have profoundly impacted the industry and the communities served by WE Transport. His induction rightly honors his remarkable career and influence in student transportation.



"I first met Bart in September 2023 and was instantly struck by his dedication to student transportation at WE Transport. Bart expertly navigates DMV and transportation laws, driving technological advancements and optimizing bus yard locations to enhance efficiency and growth. His unwavering commitment to safety, championing strict compliance and safe driving, significantly reduces accidents, embodying the company's "Generations of Safety" motto.

Bart's profound impact lies in the familial culture he fosters, where every employee feels valued and part of a unified mission. This environment is rare in today's corporate world and is a testament to Bart's compassionate leadership. His contributions extend beyond operations; he shapes the company's motto, making it a place where life revolves around family.

His visionary leadership makes him not only a worthy nominee but a true pillar of the industry."

-Jim Ring, Beacon Mobility

Patrick Vaughan

Student Transportation of America

Patrick Vaughan, Chief Executive Officer of Student Transportation of America (STA), has more than 45 years of experience in the transportation industry, with the most recent 33 years devoted to student transportation and passenger safety. After beginning his career in transportation and logistics at companies including St.

Johnsbury Trucking Company and Ames Department Stores, Vaughan joined Laidlaw Transit Inc. in 1991 as Director of Operations and was promoted in 1996 to the position of Senior Vice President. Upon the acquisition of Laidlaw Transit Inc. by First Group in 2007, Vaughan was appointed to the role of Chief Operating Officer and charged with the effective integration of the two largest student transportation providers in the industry. Vaughan joined STA in 2011. In 2017, he was named the President of STA's newly formed School Transportation Group and became the company's CEO in 2019.



“Throughout his tenure with STA, Patrick Vaughan has been visible in the field visiting locations across North America. He has worked closely with regional and local teams, implementing new initiatives in safety, driver staffing, and technology across the company. He has been instrumental in leading disciplined growth and a strategic focus on improved safety while championing a company-wide goal of providing the highest level of safe and reliable student transportation to STA's customers. Vaughan's dedication and commitment to the school bus industry has been recognized with the National School Transportation Association's Golden Merit Award, and he proudly serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association.”

-Jen Holzapfel, Student Transportation of America

NSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025



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Kobussen Buses
President



PATRICK DEAN
Dean Transportation
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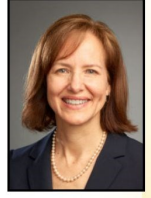
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Special thanks to Thomas Built Buses
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2024 NSTA Awards and Installation Dinner



NSTA offers various awards to its dedicated and participative members. Visit www.yellowbuses.org for a description of each award and information on how to submit your nomination for a 2025 NSTA Award!

NSTA Distinguished Service Award

NSTA Hall of Fame

NSTA Golden Merit Award

Outstanding Driver Service Awards

Go Yellow, Go Green Award

NSTA Meritorious Service Award

NSTA Vendor Partner of the Year



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