



National School Transportation Association

**2023 NSTA AWARDS AND
INSTALLATION DINNER**



2023 NSTA Annual Meeting & Convention

July 18, 2023 | Pittsburgh, PA

The Westin—Pittsburgh

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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 2023 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:

- 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 – New 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 – New 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,

Carina Noble

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.

2023 NSTA GOLDEN MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Blaise Bodway

Kobussen Buses
Kaukauna, WI

Bobbie Hartman

First Student
Cincinnati, OH

Barbie Doherty

First Student
Cincinnati, OH

Shawn McGlinchey

Krapf School Bus
West Chester, PA

Shelly Hall

Student Transportation
of America
Wall, NJ

Kirk Wilkie

Student Transportation
of America
Wall, NJ



Blaise Bodway

Kobussen Buses

In 1975, a couple of weeks after graduating high school, Blaise Bodway walked into Kobussen Buses and said he wanted to work on buses. Mike Kobussen said, "Sure come on in," and from that conversation, Blaise spent the early part of his 48-years as self-taught mechanic. Additionally, he took classes/seminars absorbing everything he could to improve his mechanical skills, and ultimately he moved up from his entry-level mechanic to shop foreman. Blaise then became a mentor to many mechanics along the way. For almost the entirety of his employment at Kobussen Buses, he was a volunteer firefighter, working his way through the ranks until he was appointed Fire Chief.



Blaise enjoys camping, golf, trains, and tinkering with small engines. He has built several campers and a "Goldie" hauler out of school buses over the years. In 2004, Blaise decided to try his hand at management. As Terminal Manager and Fleet Manager of a 20-bus operation, Blaise dedicated himself to his team, the district, and the students. He made sure everyone, and every bus was safe. He also started a network of surrounding bus garages for weather and field trip assistance.

In 2011, Blaise added another school district to his operation, and his terminal has been running smoothly since. In 2022, Blaise stepped aside to allow his assistant to take the terminal manager position, and now he travels from terminal to terminal assisting with maintenance and school bus inspections. Blaise helps prep new buses by putting in radios and cameras, and he has even used his camper to camp in bus yards around the state to help shops that are short-staffed.

As you can see, Blaise has grown up in the bus business and is truly a part of the Kobussen Family. He is always concerned about the well-being of the company, and he works hard every day to keep it thriving. Blaise has spent his whole career devoted to school bus safety. If Blaise ever decides to retire, he will truly be missed, and the entire organization is pleased that he can be honored with an NSTA Golden Merit Award.

"Kobussen Buses would not be where it is today without great people like Blaise. Blaise is always looking out for the company and what he can do to make it better. He is also someone who does everything needed in a school bus operation - from maintaining the buses, dispatching, and managing the terminal with a lot of respect from drivers, school administrators and other Kobussen staff members. We are lucky to have him as great member of the Kobussen family for over 48 years." Joe Kobussen, President, Kobussen Buses

Barbie Doherty

First Student, Inc.

Barbie Doherty's passion for people helped her begin a transportation career in the school bus industry in 1988. As a bus driver with Carey Bus Company in Brockton, Massachusetts, Barbie focused on building strong relationships and safely transporting students to their destinations.



Later, Ryder Student Transportation acquired Carey Bus in 1989, and First Student then acquired the business in 1999.

Throughout these various transitions, Barbie was identified as a student transportation leader, and she had the opportunity to grow within these companies. As her career evolved, she became a dispatcher and later a Location Manager in Brockton, Massachusetts, and over her distinguished career, she has overseen many locations, including Brockton, Randolph, Stoughton, and Weymouth.

Barbie focuses on building strong customer relationships and has averaged over a 9.5 on her OSAT score over the last three years. Her locations consistently perform in the top 25 percent of the scorecard ranking. First Student is proud of the service and important contributions that Barbie has given to pupil transportation over the years.

"We are proud, but not surprised, that Barbie has been awarded an NSTA Golden Merit award. Barbie has dedicated her life to transporting students. Whatever she has to do to make sure her students get to school safely and on time every day, she endeavors to do. She consistently starts her day at 4:00 AM to ensure all of her routes run on time. We are proud of Barbie's contributions to First Student and to the pupil transportation industry, and we celebrate her receipt of the Golden Merit award." Jessica Quint, Area General Manager - Eastern Massachusetts, First Student

Shelly Hall

Student Transportation of America

Tonight, NSTA honors Shelly Hall, Senior Vice President of Health & Safety, at Student Transportation of America (STA) as a recipient of the NSTA Golden Merit Award. Hall originally joined the Company in 2017 as Vice President of Safety and was tasked with leading the organization's safety team throughout the United States and Canada. Since joining STA, Hall has been instrumental in the development of STA's core training programs, refining a national safety audit process and authored the company's comprehensive safety policy and procedure manual.



Additionally, during her time at STA, Shelly and her safety team have modernized how safety and compliance are managed at all levels of the organization. She has led the integration of major safety and compliance systems, automating the hiring and compliance processes. Her focus on accident and injury tracking, trending, and KPI management has helped STA reduce its accident and injury frequency rates companywide. Shelly's hard work and dedication to safety across all aspects of the organization have helped to position STA as a leader in the school transportation industry.

"On behalf of the entire team at STA, we are so pleased that Shelly Hall is being honored with an NSTA Golden Merit Award. Shelly has been an important part of our leadership team over the past several years, leading our expert team of Regional Safety Directors across North America and managing important company safety and compliance programs. She has enhanced and implemented many successful training and safety programs over the course of her tenure at the company, and we are proud to highlight her accomplishments."

Patrick Vaughan, CEO of Student Transportation of America

Bobbie Hartman

First Student, Inc.

Bobbie exemplifies what we all want to stand for in outsourced student transportation. She is passionate about delivering the very best for our student-passengers. She proactively identifies challenges and offers immediate solutions. Her many attributes include relationship building with other NSTA members, as well as school district partners and community members.



Her efforts further the ability of NSTA members to provide excellence in service, safety, and outstanding community service, and Bobbie has built credibility and trust across our industry.

She leverages her deep knowledge and relationships with our field teams to turn school district's challenges into customer successes, and Bobbie makes "outsourcing" a positive word in our industry! In addition to her professional contributions, she has made significant personal contributions as well, as she has been Vice President of P.A.W.S. Humane Society of Dearborn County for the past eight years. In that time, she played a key role in elevating the live animal release rate from 73% to 99%. Bobbie's impressive personal and professional achievements make her an asset to our industry and a worthy recipient of this honor.

"On behalf of the First Student, we are thrilled that Bobbie Hartman is receiving the NSTA Golden Merit Award. Bobbie is an integral part of the First Student Team and we value her contributions to NSTA. Her leadership on key issues has helped our company and our student transportation industry. In addition to her work at First Student, Bobbie has spearheaded the revamped version of the Outsourcing Student Transportation Toolkit for the NSTA. We are proud that she received this award."

Claire Miller, Chief Commercial Officer, First Student., Inc.

Shawn McGlinchey

Krapf School Bus

Shawn McGlinchey started his career with Krapf School Bus in 2010, and in the process, added more than 23 years of extensive experience in the area of Risk Control/Loss Control to the organization. As the current Vice President of Risk Management, Shawn oversees daily risk management activities for all entities within the organization. Additionally, he has oversight of the Safety Departments and CDL Training Departments for all Krapf locations, as well as the worker's compensation and transitional duty programs.



As the current President of the Pennsylvania School Bus Association (PSBA), Shawn has been very active in all legislative matters relevant to the school bus industry. In particular, he is instrumental in advocating for the elimination of the under-the-hood testing requirements; streamlining the process for PA school bus drivers to access unemployment benefits; advocating for a school bus only CDL license; addressing the current state formulas, and supporting statewide initiatives to address the driver shortage, to name a few. Perhaps most importantly, he has diligently worked with Pennsylvania stakeholders to improve communication lines and to establish relationships.

Shawn has been a consistent participant at NSTA Bus-In activities, and he has provided the organization with support and expertise on a number of legislative and regulatory initiatives. He even made an appearance as a guest on NSTA: The Bus Stop in 2023.

Shawn is very active in his community and local church where he serves on the Ministry Council. He takes great pride in being a retired officer of the U. S. Coast Guard. We can always count on him to tend to our outdoor flags and create an acronym for anything and everything. Be warned – he is a pro at the Six Degrees of Separation, so there is no doubt he knows someone you know.

“Shawn’s commitment to our organization and providing excellent service to our customers is unwavering. He consistently displays a high level of respect and open communication, and is always willing to assist when called upon. We are proud that he is a recipient of the NSTA Golden Merit Award.”

Blake Krapf, NSTA Past President, and CEO of Krapf School Bus.

Kirk Wilkie

Student Transportation of America

Kirk Wilkie presently serves as Senior Vice President of Central & Western Operations at Student Transportation of America (STA). He is a student transportation veteran, and has more than 30 years of experience in the field, serving in various roles. During his distinguished career, Kirk has held senior-level positions in both Finance and Operations, and previously, he served as Chief Financial Officer for Durham School Services and its parent company, National Express Corporation. In these roles, he led business financing initiatives, as well as annual business planning and budgeting processes for both organizations. Kirk also served as President of both the MV Transportation East Region Operations and MV Student Transportation.



Most recently with STA, Kirk has operating responsibility for the Company's Central and Western Region. These regions encompass operations in 11 states across the western half of the U.S. He leads the growth effort for both regions while working to provide safe, reliable transportation to each of STA's customers.

"We are pleased that Kirk Wilkie is being recognized with NSTA's Golden Merit award. This is such a well-deserved honor, and we are proud to have Kirk on our team. Throughout his tenure, Kirk has made significant accomplishments toward the success of our safety initiatives and implementing operational efficiencies to ensure growth. His strong leadership has inspired his teammates while bringing incredible value to our partners and customers. Through his talent, experience, and passion, Kirk continues to make a true difference within the student transportation industry."

Patrick Vaughan, CEO of Student Transportation of America



Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer's mission is to change the lives of children with cancer through funding impactful research, raising awareness, supporting families and empowering everyone to help cure childhood cancer.

When Alex, who was diagnosed with childhood cancer just before her first birthday, was 4, she told her parents she wanted to set up a front yard lemonade stand. Her plan: to give the money to doctors to help them find a cure. Her first "Alex's Lemonade Stand," held with the help of her older brother Patrick, raised an astonishing \$2,000 in one day. While bravely fighting her own cancer, Alex continued to set up lemonade stands every year. As news spread of the remarkable girl so dedicated to helping other sick children, people everywhere were inspired to start their own lemonade stands — donating the proceeds to her cause.

In 2004 when Alex passed away at the age of 8 — her stand and inspiration had raised more than \$1 million towards finding a cure for the disease that took her life. Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) was started by her parents in 2005 to continue the work that Alex began.

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 ***Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer.***

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 · 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 · Burt 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 · 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 · Joseph L. Hamilton · Dennis Hammell · Richard Hammell · Clyde Hanson · Kevin Hansen · Keith Harms · Enoch Harris · Leland F. Harris · R. W. Harmon & Sons · Dick Harney · 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 Hoglund · 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. Lindegaard · John Lockwood · John Loeb · Bill Loshbough · Paul Losos ·

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 · 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. Micke · 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 Rutherford · Bob Rutkoski · Raymond St. George · Liz Sanchez · Ester Sanford · Anthony Sansone · Jack Sawl · Willfred 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 Teixeira · 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 · 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 Driver Service Award

Recognition for exemplary safety performance and a commitment to excellence in pupil transportation and contributions in the community.

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. Through their efforts, these student transportation professionals have greatly enhanced the image of school bus drivers. The award is given to individuals who consistently provide unsurpassed service and dedication to students and the communities they serve.

2023 NSTA OUTSTANDING DRIVER SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Barb Moore

Benjamin Bus
Northfield, MN

Carlton Murray

North America Central
Joliet, IL

Monica Solis

North America Central
Joliet, IL

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 · Peggy Nieuwenhuis · Doug Payelle · Alice Praud · Olga Quezada · Tami Rice · Ford Thompson · Jan VandenHeuvel · Carol Vosters · Stan Werling

Barb Moore

Benjamin Bus

Tonight, NSTA honors Barb Moore, Bus Driver, Third-Party Tester, and Assistant Safety Director, at Benjamin Bus—as a recipient of the NSTA Outstanding Driver Award.



Barb has been with the company for nearly 36 years, serving in various roles, including as a manager of Benjamin Bus. She was not only tasked with making sure there are enough drivers for the school buses in the fleet, she was in charge of overseeing the 55 different routes (23 morning, 21 afternoon and 11 special needs) in the Northfield district and those in the Jordan School district as well.

Barb started with Benjamin Bus as a school bus driver in 1989, and she later became an interior cleaner. In 1996, Barb applied for and was promoted to the position of Safety Director/Driver Trainer, a position she held for nearly two decades. Then in 2014, Barb was promoted to General Manager of the Benjamin Bus, Northfield location, and she held that position until 2016. At that point, Barb decided she would like to semi-retire, but remain with the company in a different role, where she stayed on as a Third-Party Tester and driver, as well as assisting the safety director.

“Barb has been an integral part of the Benjamin Bus team for many years, and she has held several key positions within the company. We value Barb’s longtime commitment to the company, but she also remains a staunch guardian of student safety within the community. We are pleased that Barb could be honored with an NSTA Outstanding Driver Service Award, and are so proud of her many accomplishments.” John Benjamin, NSTA Board of Director, President of Benjamin Bus

Carlton Murray

North America Central

North America Central School Bus (NACSB) is proud to have school bus driver, Carlton Murray, within their ranks. Without question, no one loves being a school bus driver more than Carlton, and the company appreciates the effort that he puts in day in and day out.



His co-workers know that Carlton is always there to lend a helping hand for the team, whenever called upon. In addition to being a stellar school bus driver, he dutifully handles other key roles within the company. Carlton has a great rapport with his students, and his co-workers are appreciative of his support and dedication. He has an exemplary record of customer satisfaction, timeliness, and safety. Carlton is a role model for the North American Central School Bus motto of "Safety First Quality Always."

"When I came on as a manager for our base, Carlton was one of the first people to welcome me. He is a passionate person; Carlton has helped in every department at our base and is the definition of a 'Team Player.' In addition to his own route, he is always road ready to pick up extra students, help with the occasional breakdown, and even makes sure that the furnace filters are changed at the base. I am truly honored to be apart of Carlton's work family, and Illinois Central School Bus is blessed to have him on our team." Cynthia Sosnowski, Contract Manager, North America Central School Bus

Monica Solis

North America Central

In her role with North America Central, Monica Solis demonstrates humility and exemplifies hard work and dedication every day. She is always willing to help with additional responsibilities, and perhaps more importantly, always with a smile.



Monica shows a lot of respect to her students and her position with the company. She is always punctual and is ready to transport her students to and from school in the safest manner possible. Lastly, Monica treats others with dignity and respect, and she sets a high bar and has become a great example for others in the company to follow.

“North America Central School Bus is very proud that Monica Solis is the recipient of an NSTA Outstanding Driver Service Award. Within our company, there is no one more deserving of this honor than Monica. Each day, she can be counted upon to assume her regular duties, as well as pitching in when daily challenges arise. Monica handles her responsibilities with an infectious personality that simply energizes her co-workers. She remains a consummate student transportation professional, and can always be counted upon to lead by example.” Kelly Kimble, Operations Manager, North America Central School Bus



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.

2023 NSTA GO YELLOW, GO GREEN RECIPIENT

First Student, Inc.
Cincinnati, OH

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

First Student, Inc.

Cincinnati, OH

First Student’s most prominent contribution to sustainability has been their support for electric school buses. The company operates over 240 electric buses, and they have helped their customers obtain funding for transition to electric fleets. First Student is also exploring funding options through a Vehicle-to-Grid pilot project, and the company participates in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Vehicle to Everything Memorandum of Understanding. If these projects are successful, they will create new funding options for electric buses in the FS fleet.

Additionally, First Student has taken several other steps to support sustainability. In the past four years, the company has reduced its small particulate matter emissions by 82%, nitrogen oxide emissions by 73%, CO2 emissions by 63%, and they have recycled 1,128 tons of waste, including bus fluids. Recently, First Student has partnered with The Canopy Project to celebrate Earth Day by planting a tree for each of our customers - 1,250 trees total. With these efforts, First Student is leading student transportation to a cleaner, healthier future.



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.

2023 NSTA COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Bob Ramsdell

Chief Safety Officer, National Express
NSTA Government Relations Committee and
NSTA Safety and Security Committee
Lisle, IL

“Bob Ramsdell has been a key member of the NSTA Advocacy Team for many years. He provides the team with thorough research and keen insight on our most important issues, especially those that center on safety. As the Chair of our Safety Committee, Bob has taken on many of the industry’s biggest challenges, and provided a level of expertise and professionalism that is unsurpassed.”

Carina Noble, NSTA President



THE PLACE TO BE
NATIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

NSTA

2023

Bob Ramsdell

National Express

The winner of the first-ever Committee Member of the Year Awards is Bob Ramsdell of National Express. Bob joined the ranks of the company in September 1997, and he currently holds the key role of Chief Safety Officer at the company.



Over his distinguished career in student transportation, Bob established the Durham School Services safety program, including policies and procedures, customized driver training, safety metrics, hiring standards, accident and injury reduction programs, and safety audit regime. He standardized the safety programs of nearly 30 companies acquired by National Express, and he led the effort to build a centralized driver recruitment team including development of driver recruitment processes, policies, and procedures. Bob also developed and implemented a North American driver and monitor awards and recognition program.

Bob currently serves as Vice Chair of the NSTA Government Relations Committee, as well as being Chair of the NSTA Safety and Security Committee. In these functions, Bob provides critical support and expertise with respect to the NSTA Advocacy Program – specifically reviewing and providing important context to the Association’s regulatory filings. He was an important voice on the NSTA Task Force that reviewed the School Bus Safety Act in 2020 and developed the NSTA position on this measure.

Lastly, Bob continues to represent NSTA interests as a member of the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee (STSAC), and he has been a regular participant at the yearly 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 role as chair of an NSTA committee for at least two years.

2023 NSTA COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE YEAR

Chloe Williams

President, B. R. Williams

NSTA Board of Director Member
and Membership Committee Chair
Woodstown, NJ

“Chloe Williams has been and continues to be an incredible leader for NSTA. She exudes energy and enthusiasm in the many roles she accepts on behalf of the organization. Chloe’s experience and expertise have been vital as the Association has addressed several important challenges recently, as we look to continue to grow membership.” Dan Kobussen, NSTA President-Elect



Chloe Williams

B. R. Williams

The winner of the first-ever Committee Chair of the Year Awards is Chloe Williams, President of B. R. Williams in Woodstown, NJ. Chloe is a third-generation school bus contractor, whose company has provided professional, safe and courteous transportation for our County's schoolchildren since it was originally founded in 1935 by Benjamin Riley Williams. In keeping with family tradition, in 1975, the business was acquired by his son Benjamin Riley Williams Jr., along with his wife Carol, and in 1996 they were joined by their daughter Chloe Williams Robbins, who runs the company today.



Started as a small friendly operation, that tradition still holds true as the business has grown over the years.

Chloe currently serves as a member of the NSTA Board of Directors, and she chairs the Membership Committee. In her role as Membership Committee Chair, she participated on the Alternative Transportation Task Force of the Strategic Business Plan Committee, as well as the Membership Dues Task Force. These task forces spearheaded significant changes to the NSTA membership platform, and ushered in a new era of membership development for the organization. She also was an important voice in the development of the NSTA Strategic Business Plan in 2021.

Additionally, Chloe serves as president of the New Jersey School Bus Contractors Association (NJSBCA), as well as being a member of the NSTA Awards and Meetings Committee. Chloe's insight and support have been vital to NSTA, as the organization continues to evolve in order to support and protect private school bus contracting across North America.

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.

2023 NSTA VENDOR PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Doug Campbell

National Account Manager, Safe Fleet
Charlotte, NC

“Regardless of the hardship he faces, Doug has the drive to find to a way to get every job done and done well. He’s widely known in the industry as a friend to everyone and exudes boundless enthusiasm and a love for what he does and the students he helps keep safe. Doug’s family is evident in everything he does. He is the guy you always want to have your back, as well as being the person this industry needs and is fortunate to have. Congratulations Doug – this award is truly well-deserved.”

Chris Akiyama, Vice President, Safe Fleet



Doug Campbell

Safe Fleet

Doug Campbell, the National Accounts Director of Safe Fleet, didn't start his career in the school bus industry, but he was always destined to end up here though, fulfilling his true calling – that of a passionate advocate for school bus safety.



Doug dedicates himself with tireless energy to the goal of keeping students safe on and off the bus. His participation on the NSTA Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Technology Committee, as well as the NSTA Government Relations Committee, and as co-chair of the Safety Competition Committee has truly made a difference to the Association and for pupil transportation as well.

Doug has also provided NSTA with his expertise when called upon as a presenter at a live event, podcast, or webinar. Most recently, he was part of a panel discussion—***“Putting a Stop (Arm) to Illegal Passing”*** at the 2023 NSTA Midwinter Meeting.

Most notably, Doug gave countless hours to creating awareness of the STOP for School Buses Act. His drive to meet and exceed expectations contributed to one of the most successful events in NSTA history, a ***School Bus Illegal Passing—Technology Showcase*** in Washington that helped to pass ground-breaking legislation—a law with a lasting effect on student transportation.



Driving Safety Forward™

Innovator Award

The Innovator Award, presented by School Transportation News (STN) and the National School Transportation Association (NSTA), 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. Innovations may include technology, operations, safety and green energy.



2023 INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

Bill Griffiths

SVP Fleet Management & Maintenance,
Beacon Mobility

“Bill Griffiths has been instrumental in developing and driving the programs that not only give our employees the tools they need to be successful, but also support Beacon’s commitment to the health and well-being of our communities. He is an exemplary leader who is passionate not only about collaborating on our future-looking initiatives, but also ensuring the success of his teams and all the people we serve.”

Judith Crawford, CEO, Beacon Mobility

Past Recipient

Alex Cook, First Student

Bill Griffiths

Beacon Mobility

On paper, Bill Griffiths has only been in the student transportation industry for about 3½ years. However, Bill has spent decades building an inarguably deep foundation of fleet management and leadership experience in his service with the U.S. Air Force and through industries as varied as the U. S. Forest Service, Smithsonian Institution, Montgomery County Fleet Services in Maryland, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and Chevin Fleet Solutions.



A former National Public Fleet Manager of the Year winner, Bill is being honored with the STN-NSTA 2023 Innovator Award for implementing artificial intelligence-based predictive maintenance into operations of Beacon Mobility’s 12,000 vehicle fleet. The new technology, now used in daily operations by over 400 technicians in 13 states, is accessed through hand-held tablets, which give techs real-time access to vehicle history, repair procedures, checklists, and telematics. Even the timecard system is integrated, and technicians can also upload pictures into the system for repair collaboration and analysis. Recently, Bill showcased Beacon Mobility’s Electric School Bus (ESB) technology to NSTA executive team members, highlighting the project that

he has overseen the introduction of 10 ESBs, and detailing his plans to lead the company’s transition to zero emissions vehicles.



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

Congratulations to this very deserving nominee!



2023 CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

First Student

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 · Mike Ely · Kevin Endres · Karen Finkel · Douglas Flatt · 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

First Student

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) appreciates the tremendous support given to the organization by First Student, and we take great pride in honoring them as the 2023 NSTA Contractor of the Year. This distinction is done in concert with our award partner – School Transportation News.



For many years, First Student has served as a leader in student transportation, setting the standard for safety and innovation and leveraging our size and scale to move the industry forward. Our innovations support one goal: to provide a safe and comfortable ride for our students. An example of this dedication can be found with their development of a special needs services program, FirstServes, and it was advanced in conjunction with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. FirstServes continues to be the most comprehensive special needs services program in the industry, helping hundreds of special needs students across the country start their day in a positive way.

First Student has also been a leader in school bus electrification and operates the largest electric fleet in North America. The company has a team of electrification experts to help school district customers with every step of the electrification process, and they currently operate over 240 electric buses. Overall, First Student has helped their customers obtain \$78 million in funding for their electric fleets.

Additionally, First Student has improved service and safety for students and school districts through innovations in the industry. One of the most recent and exciting contributions has been its alternative transportation program, FirstAlt. This innovative program addresses driver shortage and resolves operational inefficiencies, servicing special needs, McKinney-Vento and out of district students.

Lastly, First Student offers school districts a complete K-12 transportation solution. Instead of juggling multiple contracts, their customers can now receive all their student transportation needs in one place. The use of non-CDL drivers relieves the strains caused by driver shortage. Providing alternative transportation to students in special populations is just one of many ways First Student has shown its dedication to improve the industry through innovation.

The company continues to be an active member within the student transportation community, and they have proven to be a consistent supporter of NSTA – as the organization endeavors to improve the lives of students across North America.

“We are proud to honor First Student as the NSTA Contractor of the Year. The Association knows that we can always rely upon the knowledge and expertise of First Student to support important NSTA endeavors. I personally have enjoyed my interaction with First Student team members, and along with Tony Corpin of STN, we would like to extend our congratulations on a well-deserved honor.”

Curt Macysyn, NSTA Executive Director

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.

2023 NSTA HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT

John Benish, Jr.

President & Chief Operating Officer, Cook-Illinois Corp.

“I am proud to call John Benish my friend and colleague. John has been a great leader for NSTA over the course of many years and serving in several very important roles. He served with distinction as private school bus contracting struggled with many challenges over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, and taking the reins after him at NSTA was easier because of the positive changes he implemented during his presidency.”

Carina Noble, NSTA President

Past Inductees

Noel Biery · Roscoe Bernard · 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

John Benish, Jr.

Cook-Illinois Corporation

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) takes great pride in honoring John Benish, Jr. by inducting him into the NSTA Hall of Fame. John heads up operations at Cook-Illinois Corporation, where for more than 50 years, schools and parents have trusted the company with their most precious cargo. In 1958, Cook-Illinois was just a small company with a handful of buses, but they made the commitment to put safety and dependability in the driver's seat, every day and on every route.



Today, the Cook-Illinois fleet has grown and they are now the largest family owned and operated school bus contractor in the United States – and the sixth largest among all school bus companies nationwide. While they have expanded our service over the years, the company has not forgotten what a privilege and great responsibility it is to transport children.

John served as NSTA President during 2019-20, much of which was during the throes of the Covid-19 pandemic, and he provided a steady hand of leadership during this unsettling period. Previously, John served as Chair of the NSTA Membership Committee, and he currently serves as chair of the Nominating and Bylaws Committee. During his term as chair of the Nominating and Bylaws Committee, NSTA has implemented several key amendments to the association's bylaws. Additionally, John serves as a member of the Membership Dues Task Force, and his input was integral to the implementation of a new dues grid structure in 2023.

Thank you to our NSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023



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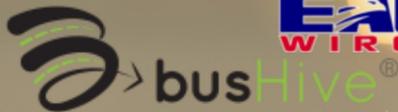
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NSTA offers various awards and grants to its dedicated and participative members. Visit www.yellowbuses.org for a description of each award and information on how to submit your nomination for 2024!

- NSTA Golden Merit Award
- NSTA Hall of Fame
- NSTA Distinguished Service Award
- Outstanding Driver Service Award
- Go Yellow, Go Green Award
- NSTA Meritorious Service Award
- NSTA Committee Member of the Year
- NSTA Committee Chair of the Year
- NSTA Vendor Partner of the Year



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Childhood Cancer in the United States

10 

average age at diagnosis with childhood cancer



17,000

children are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. each year.



500,000+

survivors in the U.S.

Children who've had chemo are

15%

more likely to suffer congestive heart failure later in life.

The **Impact** of Childhood Cancer



400,000+

children are diagnosed worldwide each year



Number 1 cause of death

by disease in children in the United States



of survivors experience a **significant side effect** by the time they are 45 years old.

Childhood cancer research is consistently underfunded by the federal government.

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