

For Immediate Release

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National School Transportation Association Announces 2025 Industry Award Winners

BOSTON, MA- The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) recognized excellence in private school bus contracting on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at the organization's annual Awards and Installation Dinner. The dinner was held as part of the 2025 NSTA Annual Meeting and Convention at The Westin Copley Place - Boston, MA. Honorees represent all facets of private school transportation operations, and they were lauded for continued excellence in supporting industry and organizational initiatives.

"It's an honor to recognize this year's award recipients—their dedication has had a lasting impact on both NSTA and the broader student transportation industry. We're grateful for their commitment to advancing safe, reliable, and efficient school transportation, and I want to personally congratulate all the winners," said outgoing NSTA President Dan Kobussen.

The 2025 National School Transportation Association award recipients include:

Golden Merit Award: The Golden Merit Award - created in 1969 to recognize excellence in service, safety, and community responsibility. The award recipients for 2025 include Kevin Kilner (Beacon Mobility), Glenn Brayman (First Student), Melissa Castle (Mid-Columbia Bus Company), Michelle Harpenau (Durham School Services), David Kinley (Student Transportation of America), and Barbie Stucker (Big Sky Bus Lines).

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. In 2025, this honor was awarded to First Student (Cincinnati, OH).

Committee Member of the Year Award: Created in 2023, awarded to an individual committee member, who has demonstrated longstanding dedication and support as a member of an NSTA Standing Committee. This year was awarded to Tim Weaverling of Keystone-RWR (Bedford, PA).

Committee Chair of the Year Award: 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. The 2025 recipient of the award is John Benjamin of Benjamin Buses (Northfield, MN).

Vendor Partner of the Year Award: An honor awarded to an NSTA Vendor Partner for its commitment to the organization by committee membership, financial support, and providing expertise on important pupil transportation issues. This honor was given to Wells Fargo Equipment Finance and Lee Edwards (Chattanooga, TN).

Innovator Award (Awarded in conjunction with School Transportation News): This award 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. The 2025 recipient of the award is Gaurav Sharda (Chief Technology Officer, Beacon Mobility).

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. In 2025, this distinction was awarded to Suffolk Transportation Service (Bayshore, NY).

Outstanding Driver Service Award: This honor is awarded to school bus drivers of private operators, and done in conjunction with School Bus Fleet, who have demonstrated exemplary safety performance and a commitment to excellence. The 2025 recipients of the award are Kilra Hylton (Transaction Associates), Duane Versteegh (School Bus Inc), Jeffery Flitcraft (B.R. Williams), Linda Caudillo (Mid-Columbia Bus Company), and Becky Williams (Dousman Transport Company).

NSTA Hall of Fame: Induction into the NSTA Hall of Fame recognizes excellence in long-term efforts on behalf of the student transportation industry. The 2025 NSTA Hall of Fame inductee is Carina Noble of Durham School Services (Lisle, IL).

“At this year’s Annual Meeting and Convention, NSTA was proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of several dedicated student transportation professionals,” said NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn. “We congratulate our 2025 award recipients and thank them for their contributions to student transportation nationwide. We’re already looking ahead to January 2026, when we’ll reopen nominations for next year’s awards program.”

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About NSTA: The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers since 1964. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide.

NOTE – Photographs attached.

1. The 2025 NSTA Go Yellow, Go Green Award is presented by (from left to right) Awards Dinner Co-Emcee Brooke Garcia to Kevin Matthews of First Student (Cincinnati, OH) along with Awards Dinner Co-Emcee John Benjamin.
2. The 2025 NSTA Contractor of the Year Award is given by (from left to right) Awards Dinner Co-Emcee Brooke Garcia to Suffolk Transportation Service executives Johnny Corrado and Tommy Smith, and joined by NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn, and Tony Corpin of School Transportation News.
3. (From left to right) NSTA Awards Dinner Co-Emcee John Benjamin confers NSTA Hall of Fame honors to Carina Noble (Durham School Services) along with Awards Dinner Co-Emcee Brooke Garcia.

AWARDS DINNER PHOTOGRAPHS – SEE CAPTIONS ABOVE

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