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NEBRASKA POLICE OFFICER RECEIVES NATIONAL "INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM" AWARD

**Officer Matthew Vann of Bellevue PD to be honored by peers
at national conference of school resource officers**

HOOVER, AL, May, 2026 – Officer Matthew Vann, who serves as a school resource officer at Bellevue West High School in Bellevue, NE, has been named the recipient of the 2026 "Innovation in the Classroom Award." The award is presented by The National Road Safety Foundation and the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). Officer Vann was selected by a panel of his peers in NASRO and will receive the award at the annual NASRO Conference in Reno at the end of June.

The award recognizes innovative teaching of traffic safety in schools by a police officer, and it carries with it full conference registration and an expenses-paid trip to the NASRO Conference.

Officer Vann has been in law enforcement since 2020 and became a school resource officer in 2023.

Since becoming an SRO, Officer Vann has developed and implemented a robust curriculum to teach high school students safe driving behavior. He puts an emphasis on impairment, and applied for and received grants for equipment such as pedal carts to demonstrate the dangers of driving while impaired or distracted. The curriculum he developed is being shared with other high schools in the area.

"I love building a real relationship with my students," Vann said. "They see me not only as law enforcement, but as a mentor they can trust and learn from. It's a good feeling."

Mo Canady, Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, said, "Officer Vann is a good example of the impact a school resource officer can have on our young people."

“We are pleased to recognize Officer Vann’s outstanding work and dedication,” said Michelle Anderson, Director of Operations at The National Road Safety Foundation. “His passion and creativity pay off when the teens he has mentored get behind the wheel.”

NASRO, the world’s leader in school-based policing, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 for school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators and school security and/or safety professionals who work as partners to protect schools and their students, faculty and staff members.

NASRO developed the “Triad” concept of school-based policing, which divides SRO responsibilities into three areas: public safety educator, informal counselor/mentor and law enforcement officer. By training law enforcement officers to educate, counsel and protect school communities, the more than 7,000 men and women of NASRO continuously lead by example and promote a positive image of law enforcement to school children and school communities. For more information, go to www.nasro.org

The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that for more than 60 years has been dedicated to reducing crashes, deaths and injuries on our nation’s highways by promoting safe driving habits through greater public awareness.

NRSF resources, which are free, deal with distracted driving, speed and aggression, impaired driving, drowsy driving, driver proficiency and pedestrian safety. The Foundation also works with youth advocacy groups and sponsors contests to engage teens in promoting safe driving to their peers and in their communities. For more information or to download free programs, visit www.nrsf.org.