**DPD wins 2nd THSO Law Enforcement Challenge**

The Dickson Police Department won first place in its category of the Law Enforcement Challenge presented by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office for the second year in a row.

The award was presented at the 37th annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference Aug. 6-8 at the Sonesta Airport Hotel in Nashville.

On Friday, Aug. 8, the THSO recognized the achievements of law enforcement agencies statewide in the 21st Annual Law Enforcement Challenge.

The Dickson Police Department received first place in the 46-75 Officers Category, followed by the Alcoa Police Department in second and Crossville Police Department in third. The DPD won the same award at the 36th annual conference in 2024.

Law Enforcement Challenge award winners are determined based on the highest accumulation of points in categories for THSO grant-funded activities to increase traffic safety in local communities. The competition is divided into categories based on the number of officers in the department. The 21st annual Law Enforcement Challenge saw participation from 66 law enforcement agencies across the state.

"The THSO is honored to recognize our local heroes going above and beyond the call of duty," said THSO Director Buddy Lewis. "Whether you are a first responder, community advocate, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer – you play an important role in traffic safety and make a difference in saving lives every day. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our traffic safety partners as we continue striving toward zero deaths on Tennessee roads."

This year’s Law Enforcement Challenge awarded points for activities July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025, in the categories Policies and Guidelines, THSO Activities, Incentives and Recognition, and Public Information and Education.

“The Dickson Police Department will continue to make roadway safety a priority, from promoting teen and senior driver safety to child safety seat and seatbelt usage to reducing injury and fatal crashes,” said Dickson Police Department Chief Seth Lyles.

Attending the conference from DPD were Assistant Chief Todd Christian, Capt. Jessica Blackwell of the department’s Special Services Division, Officer Brianna Hogan, Officer Jessica Choate and Officer Dyllon Larson

“We are extremely honored to be recognized by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office,” said Capt. Blackwell. “Their grants and assistance are an important tool in our department’s ongoing efforts to improve driving safety in Dickson.”

Capt. Blackwell previously received the THSO Teen Driver Safety Award in 2023 and former Dickson Police Chief Jeff Lewis received a THSO Director’s Award in 2019.

In addition to the DPD Law Enforcement Challenge award, Kathy Kilgore Beeler of   
Dickson County received a 2025 Director’s Award for her efforts as the Impaired Driving Program Coordinator for the Drug Free Dickson Coalition.

After the 2011 death of her son, Cole Kilgore, in a wreck involving an impaired driver, Mrs. Beeler founded the Victim Impact Panel in Dickson and surrounding counties to provide a platform for individuals to share how their lives have been forever changed by the actions of impaired drivers. She also coordinated the “Survive the Celebration” event at Creek Wood High School.

“Kathy has shown exceptional leadership, dedication and passion,” said THSO Director Lewis. “She has reached and educated 881 students and 589 adults about the serious consequences of impaired driving and the dangers of riding with someone under the influence. Her efforts are making a lasting impact by promoting awareness, responsibility and safer choices.”

 The THSO hosts the annual Lifesavers Conference to empower highway safety professionals and reward extraordinary efforts made to reduce traffic fatalities statewide. For more information on programs of the Tennessee Highway Safety Office or the 37th annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference, visit tntrafficsafety.org.