

October 30, 2008

Colonel John Czernis  
FHP Director  
Neil Kirkman Building  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Colonel Czernis:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the Florida Highway Patrol's support of the Driver's Edge program we conducted at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando on October 25-26, 2008. It was our third event in the state of Florida we have been fortunate to have the Florida Highway Patrol's support at each one of our Florida programs (Miami '06; Tampa '07; Orlando '08). I also wanted to make you aware of the tremendous impact that Trooper Wanda Diaz made, not only on the more than 600 teens and parents in attendance, but also on myself and the entire Driver's Edge team.

If you are not familiar with our organization, Driver's Edge is a public charity with a simple mission of helping to save the lives of America's young drivers. Edge offers a unique combination of free behind the wheel and classroom experiences designed to alter young driver attitudes and behavior and to serve as a "wake-up call" to help erase the video game mentality that is common among many of today's young drivers. Since our inception in 2002, over 50,000 teens and parents have attended a Driver's Edge program.

One of the modules at Edge is the *Law Enforcement Module*. This module provides a wonderful forum for law enforcement agencies to get in front of hundreds of young drivers and their parents. Troopers working this module usually use various teaching tools such as FatalVision goggles, rollover simulators and seatbelt enforcers. Troopers are also encouraged to develop a dialog, answer questions and provide both parents and teens with information that will allow them to be safer and more aware drivers on the road.

We work with local and state law enforcement agencies around the country to operate this module and we are always pleased by the support we receive. Trooper Diaz, however, was tremendous. She was engaging, enthusiastic and was actually able to connect to *both* the teens and parents. Most importantly, however, Trooper Diaz was passionate and really seemed to care about making a difference with the kids...and it showed.

Trooper Diaz's passion and support definitely contributed to helping make our first program in the city of Orlando a success. I feel confident in saying that every teen and parent left our program with a positive impression of both Trooper Diaz and the Florida Highway Patrol.

We hope to make it back to Florida in 2009 and we also hope to find the funding to allow us to expand our program throughout the state. As I'm sure you are aware, Florida is the second deadliest state in the nation in automobile-related fatalities – we are hoping to change that.

Together, we can make a difference and save lives.

Sincerely,

Jeff Payne  
Founder

Cc: Kim Jones