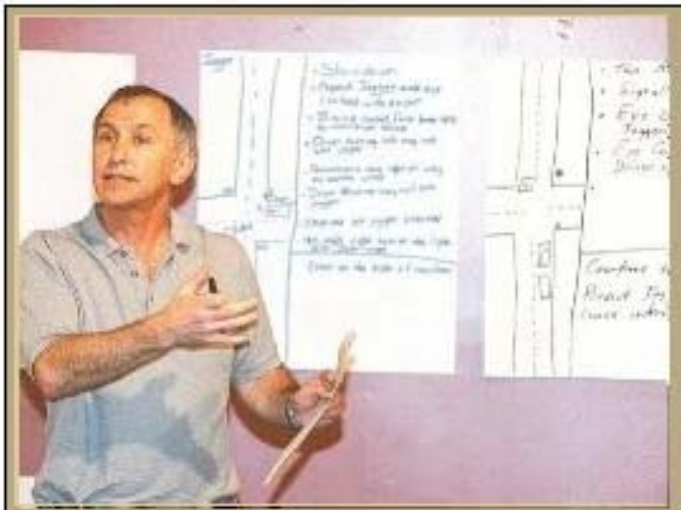


Drivers Education teachers learn about teenage driving

It's all about attitude

By Rebecca Aistrup Gerber
Dodge City Daily Globe

Everyday in the United States about 5,000 16 year-old to 20 year-olds will crash and 23 of those will die, according to information from the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Michael Schweitzer/Daily Globe Mark R. Horowitz, managing director of Moorshire Group and creator of the Drive Program, an "in-your face" approach to teaching teens driving, talks to a group of area Drivers Education teachers Wednesday morning at Casey 's Cowtown Club.

On Wednesday, high school driver education teachers from around the area participated in The Drive Workshop, which teaches educators how teenagers think and process information, especially when they are behind the wheel.

The focus of the three-hour workshop is on the driving attitudes of young drivers, said Mark R. Horowitz, managing director of Moorshire Group and creator of the Drive Program.

Horowitz explained to the group of about 30 teachers that the world has changed and the

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expectations of the teenagers is they think they should have it all.

"In their world their problems are always solved," he said.

Horowitz's drive workshop is an "in-your-face" approach to teach teens driving techniques, and that it is not like playing a video game where you can push a button and get a new life in the end.

"Kids attitude towards driving is that they are invincible so therefore they will drive fast and recklessly," Horowitz said.

During the workshop Horowitz divided the group up into small groups of three and asked them to discuss in their group a situation which may occur while driving and how they would solve it. One example was road rage and another example was approaching an intersection where a jogger is in the path of traffic. The groups discussed their conclusions, including making diagrams, and then discussed their findings with the rest of the group. Horowitz's approach to this was that many of the instructors and students will come to the same conclusions: they just may take a different path to get to that conclusion.

Horowitz said teenagers today process information differently. They think visually, have short attention spans, learn by doing not by reading and accept peers before authority. They don't want to be embarrassed and they want information straight, not sugar coated.

"We have to get their attention and tell them about teenage driving at their level," Horowitz said. "The information has got to be visual and kept short. Let them decide. We want them in the drivers seat."

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One of the components of the Drive Workshop is a short video of a teenager driver not paying attention to the road who crashes. In the video the teen is seen using his cell phone, putting a CD into the player and making careless mistakes on the road, which leads to the crash.

“This is just a different approach to driver education,” Horowitz said. “Let the students



Michael Schweitzer/Daily Globe From left to right: Mickey Stout of Fowler, J.D. Johnson of Minneola, and Barry Mellen of Southwestern Heights work together on a group project Wednesday morning at the Cowtown.

teach themselves and we guide them.”

Horowitz said this was a tool for driver education teachers to use in class, not to change curriculum. “It is all about attitude,” he said.

Horowitz added that he has conducted this program in several states and this is the sixth program he has put together in Kansas. He has received evaluations from teachers across the country that have used this program and they have said the teenagers are grasping the material.

“The kids are recognizing situations and recognizing when they are behind the wheel,” he said.

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