



the quad-cities
news leader

lewiston, clarkston, moscow & pullman

news

Attitude Adjustment

By Nate Kuester

Teenagers' attitudes about driving was on the minds of those attending Thursday's workshop.

LEWISTON - Teens and driving. Those words often conjure up certain images.

On Thursday, Driver Education instructors from around the area took part in a workshop dealing with teen attitudes.

They were taking part in a program that offers a new way of teaching teens to be safe when they get behind the wheel of a car. The workshop dealing with attitude, called "DRIVE", was held at the Red Lion Hotel.

"One of the critical factors in why almost 5,000 of our 16 - 20 year olds crash everyday, and 23 of them die everyday in this country, is their attitude," said Mark Horowitz, Managing Director of the Moorshire Group, which was presenting DRIVE. "And, there's an enormous disconnect between how we teach, not just Driver's Ed, but all teaching, and who is this 21st century teen? How do they think? How do they process information? How do they learn?"

Horowitz works for the Chicago-based company, which created DRIVE. He said the program does a good job of connecting with today's teenagers. Some people say teens are armed with better hand-eye coordination than ever before thanks to video games, but that they've picked up some bad attitudes toward driving along the way.

"They've collected a lot of not-so-good attitudes from the video games that they've played, that when they get with a car in a video game, they're crashing those cars and smashing things up and blowing things up," said Kelly Glenn, Driver Education Specialist with the Idaho Department of Education. "They don't get a new life when they're out there for real."

Horowitz said a teen's attitude makes all the difference in the world.

"One of the main things that's been missing in Driver Ed is attitude, because attitude drives your behavior," said Horowitz. "I'll tell you something, if you've got the wrong attitude behind the wheel, I don't care if they've had a thousand hours of practice, they're going to kill themselves and, sadly, take other people with them."



Glenn said the Idaho Department of Education is excited about partnering with the Office of Highway Safety to bring the DRIVE program to the state's young drivers.

"It's really taking a good, hard look at attitudes, because it's an area of Driver Ed that hasn't had the focus and attention that it probably should have," said Glenn.

Part of what makes this program unique, is that many of the lessons learned don't necessarily come from the teachers.

"It's not the teacher, it's the teens," said Horowitz. "They're teaching themselves. The teachers act as a coach. He or she is coaching them. So, we started to roll the DRIVE program out about a year and a half ago, and five states have picked it up for all of their Driver Ed teachers, including the state of Idaho. It's also being used in about a dozen other states, and we really insist that we do workshops because we want teachers to hear the thinking behind the DRIVE program." KLEW (CBS-3)