

# New Jersey Parent/Teen Orientation Program



Kean University, in partnership with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety and New Jersey State Police, have developed a Parent/Teen Driver Orientation Program that promotes the importance of parental involvement and partnership with their teens to enhance awareness of the risk for novice drivers, the rationale for the GDL law, and the importance of education and practice driving.

Ensuring that parents and teens understand these risks and responsibilities associated with driving is essential to reducing the number of teen driver crashes, injuries and fatalities. While researchers have found that the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law is the single most effective tool for helping reduce teen driver crashes, injuries, and fatalities, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Company have also found that teens who have parents that set rules and monitor their driving activities in a helpful and supportive way are half as likely to crash.

## **Orientation**

The orientation, approximately 60 – 75 minutes in length, is presented by instructors in community-based settings (i.e., schools, libraries) and can be linked to classroom driving education programs and back-to-school nights. The orientation is designed for parents and their teens in the pre-permit/permit stage of licensure (parents and their teens that are already holding a probationary license will also benefit) and includes a tool kit for families loaded with functional resources that support parental involvement and safe driving behaviors.

## **Instructor Training**

Instructor Training for the orientation includes a comprehensive review of New Jersey's GDL law, relevant research, and the status of teen driver safety from both a state and national perspective. Instructors are also trained to effectively engage an audience of parents and teens using an interactive learning approach. Certificates of completion are issued to those who have successfully completed the training.

For more information about the orientation or instructor training, please contact;

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