Kean University in partnership with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety and New Jersey State Police developed Share the Keys, a research based, data-driven orientation designed to reduce teen driver crash risks by increasing parental involvement.

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws are recognized as the single most effective tool for reducing teen driver crashes, injuries and deaths. New Jersey’s GDL is considered one of the most progressive and stringent in the United States. However, to be effective, it must be supported by parents, and they and their teens need to understand the risks and responsibilities associated with driving.

Parental involvement has a significant impact on teen driver safety. A research report, Driving through the Eyes of Teens: A Closer Look, commissioned by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Institute, examined the impact parenting styles had on teen driver safety. It found that teens whose parents set rules and pay attention to their driving activities in a helpful, supportive way are half as likely to be involved in a crash. The report presents the many safety gains realized through this balanced parenting approach (authoritative) and provides a series of best practices.

For more information about Share the Keys visit: www.SharetheKeys.com
PERMIT AND PROBATIONARY LICENSE RESTRICTIONS
Driving Hours
• No driving between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.*
  *Restriction does not apply to drivers 21 years of age or older
• Work or religious exemption*
  *Drivers must carry legible documentation on letterhead signed by the employer, organization, or religious institution stating the reasons for the request to be exempt from the curfew restriction

Passengers
• No more than one passenger*
  *Restriction does not apply to drivers 21 years of age or older, teens accompanied by a parent/guardian, or passengers who are the driver’s dependents (children)

GDL Decal
• Required on front and rear license plates by all drivers under age 21 who possess a permit or probationary license

Electronic Devices
• No use of cell phones (hand-held or hands-free)

Seatbelt
• Must be worn at all times

Plea Bargain - 0 Point Ban
• Effective September 17, 2008, the Attorney General banned municipal prosecutors from offering 0 point plea agreements to all GDL holders

STAGE 1 - PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
Special Learner’s Permit
• Be at least 16 years old
• Obtain consent of a parent or guardian
• Enroll in an approved behind-the-wheel driver training course
• Pass the knowledge and vision tests

Examination Permit
• Be at least 17 years old
• Obtain consent of a parent or guardian
• Pass the knowledge and vision tests
• Practice supervised driving for at least six months

STAGE 2 - PROBATIONARY LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
• Be at least 17 years old
• Pass the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) road test
• Practice unsupervised driving for at least one year

STAGE 3 - BASIC LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
• Be at least 18 years old
• Complete one year of unsupervised driving with probationary license restrictions
• Pay the required fee

For more information about the GDL licensing process, please visit njmvc.gov.