



The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

## **GTIPI GEORGIA TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION INSTITUTE**

*The Governor's Office of Highway Safety is a full partner in this program*

1070 Culpepper Drive • Suite 300 • Conyers, Georgia 30094  
Phone: (678) 413-4281 or (800) 342-9819 • Fax (678) 413-4293

**[ridesafegeorgia.org](http://ridesafegeorgia.org)**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Frankie Jones, Director 800-342-9819

Writer: Andrew Turnage 678-413-4283

### **UGA Traffic Injury Prevention Institute Awarded \$730,900 Grant**

OCTOBER 1, 2011 – CONYERS, GA. – The University of Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute (GTIPI) has been awarded a \$730,900 grant from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to continue its statewide education and training programs in the areas of child passenger safety, teen and senior driver education and occupant safety programming.

For 25 years, GTIPI has partnered with GOHS in designing and delivering education that improves driver and passenger safety. GTIPI continues to be a leading resource in traffic safety education in Georgia. The UGA-GOHS partnership dates back to 1986 when grant funding was awarded to states with highway safety offices partnering with institutions of higher education to address traffic injuries. In Georgia, UGA's Extension was the partner identified in the legislation to conduct parent classes in the consistent and correct use of child safety seats in all of Georgia's 159 counties. Originally named the Occupant Safety Education Program (OSEP), the project was renamed as GTIPI in 2002. GTIPI is an outreach unit of the UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences Extension.

Through this year's grant award, GTIPI continues its four main training and community education initiatives: the National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Course, Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E. (Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error), CarFit for senior drivers, and the Online Safety Store. Each program area delivers adult education for consumers, safety professionals and community volunteers that is designed to address the most common causes of traffic injuries and fatalities for target age groups.

Law enforcement, emergency medical services, health departments, Cooperative Extension educators and fire departments across the state participate in GTIPI's training and distribute educational materials. Onsite training is conducted primarily across the state at regional locations, as well as GTIPI's headquarters training facility in Conyers.

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Parents and young children benefit from safety professionals and volunteers who achieve national certification in the 32-hour Child Passenger Safety Technician training. “Even though child safety seats are used more than 90 percent of the time by Georgia parents, four out of five seats are installed incorrectly,” said Dr. Don Bower, GTIPI’s Project Director. “The National CPST Certification Course offered by GTIPI qualifies volunteers to teach parents how to do it right and also protects them under Georgia law.”

GTIPI’s course, “Georgia Teens Ride with PRIDE,” is for parents and their new teen drivers. “Sixty-four percent of teen fatalities in our state weren’t buckled up,” Bower said. “PRIDE trains instructors how to deliver safe driving tools to the community. PRIDE Instructors help parents make it through the process of their teen getting a license without ‘losing their cool’ and helps teens learn how to avoid crashes. PRIDE Instructors equip both the parent and teen with accurate information about how to get and keep a Georgia driver license and avoid the most common causes of teen driver fatalities.”

Designed for mature drivers, CarFit helps seniors stay behind the wheel longer and more safely. “CarFit is a non-threatening way to educate seniors about how to stay safe and comfortable in their cars,” Bower said.

The Online Safety Store is a partnership between GOHS and GTIPI. Now in its sixth year of collaboration, the Store is the primary source statewide for print and electronic traffic safety resources for professional, educators, and consumers. GTIPI manages distribution of GOHS materials from the website, [www.georgiahighwaysafety.org](http://www.georgiahighwaysafety.org)

For more information about GTIPI, traffic safety training and programs, or traffic-related resources, visit [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org) or contact GTIPI at 678-413-4281, or toll free at 800-342-9819.

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