



PTSI Maria Palacios-Hardes Trainer of Distinction Award

PTSI established the Maria Palacios – Hardes Trainer of Distinction Award in 2013 to celebrate and recognize the attributes and accomplishments of Maria – a trainer who embodied dedication, commitment and a passion for the safety of school students and passengers in New York State and across the nation.

As many of you know, a few short months after receiving her award Maria passed way, leaving with us her legacy as the gold standard for school transportation safety in this state.

Each year, a new “Trainer of Distinction” will be nominated and celebrated for their contributions and accomplishments which demonstrate their dedication, commitment and passion – in much the same way as Maria Palacios-Hardes. Please consider nominating a colleague who is deserving of this award!

The criteria to be nominated for this award are as follows:

- Minimum 10 years of experience in school transportation industry in any training role
- Employed in school transportation for minimum of 5 years
- Documented significant contribution(s) to serving training needs of diverse populations
 - These training efforts must be documented, including dates, locations, identification of audience, and training content.
- Active in serving on association or community committees affiliated with school transportation industry within NYS in the most recent past 3 years

- Assisted with any NYS rodeo or other safety event in any capacity once in the most recent past 3 years that serves or enhances the school transportation community/industry witnessed by someone who was at the same event. (Contact PTSI for the form letter for them to sign)
- Must be a CDL holder with a clean record for 5 years – consecutive and most recent (must send a driver's abstract dated no more than 30 days before the application date) *Exception:* non-preventable accidents, must provide accident report.
- 3 letters of reference (contact PTSI for the form letter for them to sign) signed and accompanied by one 2-5 minute video of those giving the reference, discussing amongst themselves why they feel this nominee should be considered for the award. (The video does not need to be commercial quality – smart phone video files are acceptable) (may be used at the award ceremony)
- 2 signatures of company or school district upper administrators (one of which must be direct supervisor) who will attest to the applicant's ethics and character (we will provide the form letter for them to sign)

Contact PTSI – 800-836-2210 if you have questions or need assistance in nominating someone!



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Date: _____

Name of Trainer: _____

Years of training experience: _____

Year of Certification as an SBDI or MI: _____

Employment History:

Identify the diverse populations served in nominees training efforts:

Training History (attach documentation):

Committee / Industry Affiliations:

Roдео Participation History:

Name of person nominating this trainer: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Submit this form to: (mail, email or fax)

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