



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Dutch Fork High School and teacher Kelly Payne were recognized at the South Carolina National Safety Council's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alive at 25 Coalition Dinner November 12, 2009!**

The South Carolina National Safety Council held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Alive at 25" Coalition Dinner on November 12, 2009 at the Summit Club located in Columbia, South Carolina.

The "Alive at 25" Coalition Benefit Dinner offered the opportunity to bring together community leaders, law enforcement, businesses and families to raise the awareness about the "Alive at 25" program and the benefit the program hopes to offer to all communities around the State of South Carolina.

The Alive at 25 program is designed to be an early intervention course to help prevent traffic violations, collisions, and/or fatal fatalities. The focus is to help educate young drivers to adopt safer driving practices, take responsibility for their behavior in various driving situations, and to be aware of many of the typical driving hazards.

The South Carolina National Safety Council and the Alive at 25 program has received an overwhelming showing of support and endorsement from South Carolina's local government officials. We were pleased to have the following government officials attend and show their support: Senator Joel Lourie District 22, Sheriff James R. Metts of Lexington County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Chuck Wright Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Herman Young Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, Colonel Kenny Lancaster South Carolina Highway Patrol, Director Mark Keel the Department of Public Safety, Chief T.P Carter Columbia Police Department, Chief Jeff Helms Fort Mill Police Department, Tim Carlton Aiken County Coroner, Chief Howard Cook Columbia Police Department, Chief Bruce Rucker Lexington County Department of Public Safety/Emergency Management, Belinda Jackson National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Captain Robert Rabon Columbia Fire Department and Chief Mark Fallaw North Police Department.

During the third annual "Alive at 25" Coalition Dinner Dutch Fork High School and Social Studies teacher Kelly Payne were honored for their creative partnerships, and traffic safety innovations pertaining to educating young drivers within their community in the hopes of reducing teen fatalities. Dutch Fork High School was recognized and received the South Carolina National Safety Councils, Certificate of Appreciation for the implementation of the Alive at 25 program and Ms. Kelly Payne received the Leadership award for being a leader within her community regarding the Alive at 25 program.



Sheriff James R. Metts, Kelly Payne,  
Brooke Russell, COO SCNSC

The South Carolina National Safety Council congratulates Dutch Fork High School and Kelly Payne and is proud to shine a spotlight on the forward-thinking of the Committee Leaders within the Irmo community and we encourage other communities to become as pro-active as they have become within their Community.

### **Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of teens today in the United States**

Unlike traditional driver's education courses that focus on the mechanics of driving, Alive at 25 addresses the behaviors of driving. Alive at 25 rewards good decision-making and provides tools on how to make good decisions when in a peer pressure environment.

More information on SCNSC and the program described in this press release can be found at [www.scnsc.org](http://www.scnsc.org)

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