



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 18, 2018

## ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PARTNERS WITH DRIVERS EDUCATION ON ROADWAY SAFETY

Illinois Tollway partners with Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association ahead of National Teen Driver Safety Week; Releases Give Them Distance curriculum and new PSA

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** — The Illinois Tollway today announced a new partnership with the Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA) that will elevate roadway safety laws and spotlight new initiatives aimed at roadway safety in advance of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

"Unfortunately, too many drivers aren't slowing down and changing lanes for vehicles on the side of the road." said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Elizabeth Gorman. "This partnership provides a better way to reinforce a vital roadway safety message with Illinois' newest drivers. We want these students to focus on safety and to bring that message to other drivers in their family as well."

The partnership between the Tollway and IHSCDEA, the pre-eminent organization tasked with educating young drivers, began today with the launch of new curriculum aimed at Illinois driver's education classrooms highlighting the Illinois Tollway's Give Them Distance campaign.

Launched by the Illinois Tollway in 2017, Give Them Distance is a first-of-its-kind campaign educating drivers about the importance of Scott's Law, commonly referred to as the 'Move Over' Law, which requires drivers to slow down and change lanes safely when passing any and all vehicles stopped on the side of the road with lights flashing.

"One of the IHSCDEA's guiding principles is to collaborate with other agencies that are committed to improving traffic safety and upgrading driver education in Illinois," said IHSCDEA President Chris Wingate. "We are eager to share these educational resources and instill these safe driving habits in our students from the very start of their driver education."

The IHSCDEA, established in 1952, is composed primarily of high school and college driver education instructors, supervisors, coordinators and safety enthusiasts throughout Illinois. Through its partnership with the Illinois Tollway, the IHSCDEA will connect their more than 700 members with educational resources pertaining to Scott's Law to share in classrooms across the state.

Along with reaching student drivers with the importance of following Scott's Law, the Illinois Tollway's recently released <u>Public Service Announcement</u> addresses the dangers of failing to slow down and change lanes for vehicles on the side of the road and urges all drivers to take the Give Them Distance pledge. The 15-second video will be featured on NBC 5 Chicago and will also be available to view on the Give Them Distance website.

"We're hopeful this can be the first step in a longstanding partnership to bolster the message of roadway safety within our schools," added Gorman. "It's an issue that's top priority for the Tollway, as we'll continue to seek ways to spread the message."

Illinois drivers, students and educators can find out more about the Give Them Distance initiative, take the Give Them Distance pledge and download educational resources at <u>www.GiveThemDistance.com</u>. Video resources for media are available at the following links:

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- Tollway and Drivers' Education Partnership Promotional Video
- Tollway and Drivers' Education Partnership Classroom B-Roll
- Give Them Distance Public Service Announcement

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