



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PTDI Completes 20 Years of Certifying Entry-Level Truck Driver Training Courses

Alexandria, Virginia – The Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI) recently reached a milestone: 20 years of certifying courses at entry-level truck driver training schools across the United States and Canada.

“I have to believe that the things we did and the current methods of truck driver training schools as a result of the standards we put together have led to improved, safer drivers out there, and this began with the PTDI,” said Ed Kynaston, who served as the organization’s first president when the Professional Truck Driver Institute of America was incorporated in 1986.

At that time, Kynaston said, “in some states you didn’t even have to prove you could drive a truck; you could apply for a driver’s license by mail.”

Much has changed since then. Today, despite the lack of a federal ruling regulating industry standards for entry level drivers, many in the industry have turned to PTDI. Robert McClanahan, director at Central Tech Transportation & Safety Education, who has served on the PTDI Board since 1996, noted, “In my 14 years of involvement, I have seen PTDI improve by continuing to review and revise standards, keeping up with training and technology changes that have come up over the years, and making sure we are right there as an industry with standards.”

McClanahan noted that 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of PTDI course certification for Central Tech. “Each time we go through the recertification process,” McClanahan explained, “it gives us a chance to look at our entire program and to make adjustments if needed. PTDI has helped us over the years to make our program more successful. We continue to seek recertification because we will always promote quality and high standards.”

Central Tech Transportation & Safety Education, located in Drumright, OK, received PTDI course recertification in December, as did the Center for Employment Education,

Anchorage, AK; and SAGE Technical Services, Billings, MT. In addition, the fourth Baker College, located in Romeo, MI, received initial course certification.

“PTDI is a good voice for us in Washington,” said Phil Whitmer, Dean of Transportation Technology and Transportation System Program Coordinator for Baker College. Whitmer, who has served as a PTDI onsite evaluator since 2000, noted that the first Baker College location received PTDI course certification in 1999.

“PTDI keeps the standards out there as a guiding light for the industry, and that’s absolutely important; otherwise, everyone would be on their own,” Whitmer said.

The PTDI Board recently completed the first comprehensive review of the Entry-Level Skill, Curriculum and Certification standards. When the standards were first revised and released as final in 1999, an estimated 250 stakeholders, including schools, carriers, government agencies, and insurance companies, were involved in the process.

“For the future, I hope PTDI continues to maintain the standards that hundreds of individuals helped to develop,” Whitmer said. “The PTDI certification process makes us strive to be the best we can.”

For additional information, contact Virginia DeRoze, 703-647-7015 or vderoze@truckload.org.

PTDI is a national, nonprofit organization established for the twofold purpose of developing uniform industry skill, curriculum, and certification standards for entry-level truck driver training and motor carrier driver finishing programs, and certifying entry-level truck driver training courses at public and private schools and driver finishing programs at carriers for compliance with PTDI standards. PTDI is based in Alexandria, Virginia.

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