

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, Vermont is experiencing a severe shortage of qualified Driver Education Teachers both in schools and in the Commercial School arena. I have taught in the Driver Education Instructor Preparation Program at Keene State since 2012. I have my Masters in Education Degree which is a requirement for people to instruct there. I have taught all 4 initial preparation classes to include Zone Control which is the first class required for Vermont Instructor Candidates. It was always my goal to help prepare the future Instructors from Vermont and New Hampshire to become the very best Professional Driver Education Instructor they could be. I feel I inspired them to know the importance of the field and their influence on Teen Drivers. My goal with the Teacher Candidates was for them to be able to leave the Keene State Program and get their Certification and step into the classroom and car and teach teens immediately. I have always taught Instructors to the National Standards and provide a High Quality Program. It should never be anything less. What we do in the field is too important. Unfortunately, because people are concerned of the shortage of Instructors, the high level of quality instruction has dropped to simply recruiting as many people into the field as possible, getting them through the classes as fast and cheaply as possible and giving credit towards the certification for life experience such as law enforcement and military driving experience. I am a retired Police Officer and a US Army Veteran and neither experience prepared me for teaching students how to drive a car. The one thing that kills them the most. (Traffic Crashes.)

Any college that offers Instructor Preparation Programs needs to understand the importance of having highly qualified Adjunct Faculty Instructors who only teach to the National Standards through the ANSTSE Teacher Training Curriculum.

I hired a new teacher who went through the program at WMMC in NH and I had to re-teach everything to her. The entire class was done online, and she told me they wrote papers out of their textbooks, and took a few tests. They never even saw a driver education vehicle or taught any lessons in one. She did not know how to teach in the classroom either.

I was shocked. I have heard the other driving schools are experiencing the same thing with new instructors. I urge the State of Vermont to bring the certification program for Instructors back to Vermont, and only have qualified Driver Education Teachers as Instructors. I would love the opportunity to continue teaching instructors to become Highly Qualified Educators.

Sincerely,

Roderick C Hull

Former Keene State Adjunct Faculty 2012-2023