

IN THE COMMUNITY

SAGE Technical Services graduates seven young men

For the group of young men in the Dads Making a Difference program, the holiday brought special celebration late last year. It signified a new beginning and much brighter future for their families.

The Dads Making a Difference graduation ceremony was held on Dec. 18 in the auditorium at WYDOT headquarters in Cheyenne. Each

one recently graduated from SAGE Technical Services where they earned their Class A Commercial Driver's License.

The program consisted of a five-week commercial driver training course with SAGE Technical Services and programs administered through the Dads Making a Difference Program (DMD or Dads) to build strong organizational, communication and relationship skills. These individuals began their program with barriers to success, but were successful anyway.

WYDOT has long provided a transportation system that is arguably the envy of the nation. Programs range from maintenance and snow plow operation, patrol and enforcement all the way up to road and bridge design – all things highway.

You may not think immediately of workforce development when you think of WYDOT. However, they are instrumental in



Photo: Doug McGee

facilitating delivery of services and ensuring the competency of new or incumbent drivers.

Driver Services CDL Examiner Dale Cazier, under the direction of Support Services Administrator Tom Loftin, serves the commercially licensed citizens of Wyoming through programs ranging from commercial driver testing to third party testing administration.

Commerce in the state and the nation depends on commercial drivers. In 2011, truck transportation accounted for \$126 billion of the total national gross domestic product. Many of those dollars were a direct result of goods produced here in Wyoming. Alternately, Wyoming roads provide the direct conduit for products produced elsewhere. WYDOT routinely reaches out to employers and carriers in the state to provide tools and resources to foster and encourage safe product delivery. Equally important is their contribution to the Wyoming Trucking Association and its members, providing expert guidance and assisting in cutting-edge program development.

The tremendous amount of inter-agency and intra-agency support and coordination required to serve Wyoming citizens is most difficult to identify. Special thanks goes to WYDOT Public Affairs Officer Doug McGee for assisting with photos of the graduates; Administrative Assistant Natalie Crawford for coordinating use of the auditorium; WYDOT; and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services for your commitment to the community and these dads is remarkable.

– Brenda Birkle, Director SAGE Technical Services