

3-30-1998

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/30/1998 - EIU Observes Traffic Safety Month With Assorted Programming.pdf" (1998). 1998. 92.

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98-109

March 30, 1998

EIU OBSERVES TRAFFIC SAFETY MONTH WITH ASSORTED PROGRAMMING

CHARLESTON -- Substance abuse on college campuses and child car seat safety are among the topics to be covered during "Traffic Safety Month" being observed in April by Eastern Illinois University's Office of Safety Programs.

The programs, free and open to the public, are partially funded by mini-grants from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

William White, senior research consultant at Chestnut Health Systems in Bloomington, will talk about "Substance Abuse and the Workplace" at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, in the Kansas Room in the University Union on the EIU campus.

He will outline emerging trends in substance abuse and how communities and campuses are responding to these trends. Particular attention will be given to prevention and intervention programs designed for students, faculty and staff.

White will give another talk at 5 p.m. in the Kansas Room on "Substance Abuse: Causes, Consequences and Positive Campus Responses."

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SAFETY

Add the presence of a passenger side air bag and the situation changes, she noted.

Workshop participants can anticipate hands-on experience identifying misuse, installing safety seats in a variety of vehicles and learning the advantages of the diverse types of safety seats. A blend of classroom and parking lot experiences fill the day. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have basic knowledge about safety seat use and installation. More importantly, they will know what questions to ask and where to find answers, Hocker said.

At IDOT, Hocker has been actively involved in the passage of both the Child Passenger Protection Act and the Safety Belt Law. She served as executive director of the Governor's Task Force on Occupant Protection from 1988 to 1990. She also was instrumental in establishing the Illinois Coalition for Safety Belt Use serving as the first executive director. Hocker is a registered nurse and has a master's degree in health service administration.

Sgt. Patrick Quillinan, traffic safety specialist for Lincolnshire Police Department, will visit the EIU campus Monday, April 27, to present strategies for responding to aggressive driving and how drivers can prevent a minor traffic disagreement from turning into a fatal incident. He also will provide general safety tips for driving alone or when confronted by a car-jacker. He will deliver sessions at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the Charleston/Mattoon rooms in the University Union.

For more information about any of these Traffic Safety Month presentations, call Eastern's Office of Safety Programs at (217) 581-2019.