Austin—The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center’s (TMCEC) Municipal Traffic Safety Initiative, funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, recently sponsored a Traffic Safety Award to recognize those who work in local municipalities that have made outstanding contributions to their community in an effort to increase traffic safety. This competition was a friendly way for municipalities to increase their attention to quality of life through traffic safety activities. All municipal courts in the State of Texas were eligible to apply.

Applicants were judged on the basis of what their court is doing in terms of public outreach in their community to increase traffic safety while decreasing traffic crashes, traffic fatalities, juvenile DUI, child safety seat offenses, red light running, and other traffic related offenses. Eighteen courts have been selected to receive awards: four in the large volume courts, serving a population of 150,000 or more; nine in the medium volume courts, serving populations between 30,000 and 149,999; and five in the small volume courts, serving a population below 30,000. Six courts were also selected as honorable mentions.

Numerous award applications were received and the following courts were selected by a panel of judges to receive recognition for their initiatives and hard work: Alvin, Harker Heights, Hickory Creek, Lakeway, and Universal City were selected from the low volume courts; Bryan, Burleson, College Station, Conroe, Friendswood, Frisco, La Porte, Mansfield, and Socorro from the medium volume courts; and Arlington, El Paso, Houston, and Irving from the high volume courts. Hutto, Lewisville, Odessa, Pasadena, Sweeny, and Windcrest were also selected to receive honorable mentions for their dedication and traffic safety projects.

Award recipients will be honored at the TMCEC Traffic Safety Conference that will be held on April 2-4, 2013 at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin. Texas Municipal Court Association (TMCA) Board President, Judge Brian Holman, Lewisville Municipal Court, will present the awards to the recipients.

Award recipients will host a breakout session at the Traffic Safety Conference so like-sized courts can learn more about the award recipients’ traffic safety initiatives. In past years these breakout sessions were extremely successful in encouraging other courts to follow suit and work more diligently in the area of traffic safety education.

To learn more about the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center or the Municipal Traffic Safety Award, contact TMCEC at 512-320-8274 or visit www.tmcec.com.