



**For Immediate Release - May 3, 2016**

**Culpeper County receives recognition for efforts in *Where the Rubber Meets the Road (WTRMTR)* defensive driving campaign**

*- VML Insurance Programs awarded 17 members for their efforts in the campaign -*

**Culpeper, VA** – Culpeper County was among one of 17 VML Insurance Programs (VMLIP) members to receive recognition for their participation in the WTRMTR defensive driving campaign at the annual awards banquet held this March.

Culpeper County was recognized for meeting their first year training goals in the campaign, which is designed to address motor vehicle crashes as the number one cause of occupational fatalities. The campaign requires participating members to provide VMLIP-approved defensive driving instruction to at least 90 percent of their drivers within the first year of joining the campaign.

Safety of its employees is a chief concern for Culpeper County. By participating in this campaign, the County not only secured safety training for its employees, but also additional discounts in insurance premiums. Credit goes to all of the employees who participated; the teamwork displayed to complete and receive this award was outstanding.

The WTRMTR campaign launched in 2010 to address safe driving among VMLIP members - including cities, towns, counties, schools, and other governmental entities. Today 70 members are enrolled and more than 39,000 Virginia local government drivers have been trained on defensive driving.

The campaign was recently presented with the 2015 Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) Award for Excellence in Performance. The AGRiP Award for Excellence in Performance was created to recognize an intergovernmental pool or other group or organization for the development, management and implementation of a creative idea, approach, or program that enhances the goals and purposes of intergovernmental pooling to serve and protect the public in an effective and efficient manner.

Culpeper County was awarded for meeting their initial training achievement of providing 90 percent of their drivers with defensive driving instruction and for successfully implementing driving policies and procedures. They will now receive 5 percent credit on their automobile liability coverage premium. To continue receiving the credit, they must continue to provide 50 percent of drivers with a minimum of one-hour of instructional driver training each year and continue enforcing their driving policies and procedures.

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of occupational fatalities and the leading cause of death for those aged two to 39 and 50 to 72. Defensive driving courses are key toward providing strategies to reduce collision-related injuries, fatalities and costs. (National Safety Council)

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