

ANDY NELSON – SETTING EXPECTATIONS: INSTRUCTORS TRANSCRIPT

[00:00]

(Peppy music plays while introductory slides show the Institute for Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation logos and then the video title of “Setting Expectations: Instructors”)

[00:06] [Speaker – Andy Nelson, Safer Driver Solutions]:
(Music quiets)

When we teach instructors to become instructors, we focus on what we believe drive one, drive two, drive three, drive four, and so on should be.

[00:12]

(Brief b-roll video shows a series of driver’s perspectives of driving on roadways that get progressively more complex)

Every school is going to have a little variation based on where they live.

[00:18]

(Brief b-roll video shows a passenger’s perspective of the side of the roadway while driving on a rural highway with barns, silos, windmills, and dried grass comprising the view)

It’s all the basics of four-way stops and intersections and speed and right-hand turns and left-hand turns.

[00:25]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver with an older passenger on a highway as vehicles merge ahead of them and then a driver’s perspective of traveling on a rural roadway)

But then, as you move into higher traffic or lower traffic environments, then you’re going to see a little bit of adjustment in how the drive two, three, and four, five might be.

[00:35]

(Brief b-roll video shows teenagers in a classroom with a teacher speaking at the front of the room)

But that’s key back to the instructor needs to make sure that they need to, that everybody’s on the same page, because there’s opportunities for teachable moments.

[00:41]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver with an older passenger as the passenger talks to the driver while the vehicle is stopped)

There's opportunities for things that we tried to go this way and we went this way, and we kind of got off the beaten path...

[00:47]

(Brief-b-roll video shows a driver's perspective of being stopped at a railroad crossing as a train passes on the tracks and then transitions to video of a driver perspective of driving on a highway with construction cones)

...or we got stuck at a railroad crossing with the train, or we got caught in road construction. So, there has to be flexibility in our driving in that, you know, if we come across a moment that we can't pass up to teach, like an ambulance coming up behind us and we've got to move over to the right, we're going to take advantage of doing that. Or something that comes up. But at the same time, every student is different.

[01:10]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver taking a moment to rest in a parked vehicle while an older passenger looks on)

So, if we have a problem and we need to stop and take a break a little bit. Foundationally, we're going to start with the basics of driving and move steadily on.

[01:16]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver making a left turn in a vehicle)

The instructor just needs to be aware that if they run into any issues, they need to reach back to their classroom instructor or the school owner and say, "Hey, you know, we've run into this issue. What do I need to do?"

[01:31]

(Brief b-roll zooms in on a still image of a classroom with several students raising their hand and an instructor pointing to a student in the middle with their hand raised)

The instructor should always know they can ask questions. Just because you were trained, you're not done. You can reach back out to the trainers, reach back out to the schools. There are all kinds of resources to keep them updated. That's why in regular education they have professional development. Same thing for driver's ed. We're always here to help.

[01:50]

(Brief b-roll video shows an instructor working with a student sitting in front of a computer)

Once you stop learning, then you're deficient to your student, because they're going to ask you a question one day and you're like going, "I don't know." And we don't want to be in that position, because we have to be perceived as the expert or the resource to the parents. Because that's what builds trust.

[02:07]

(Video of Andy Nelson fades to black as louder peppy music resumes, while outro slides provide a disclaimer that reads, "This video was developed by the Institute for Transportation (InTrans) at Iowa State University for the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) with the purpose to provide the material for driver education instructors in Iowa. InTrans is responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the information presented herein as of May 1, 2025. Driver education instructors may use the material in its entirety or may use any of the material individually. The material is for educational purposes only. It is strictly prohibited to sell any part of this video. If any of the material is reused, please credit the Iowa DOT. For more information or questions, please contact Vania Boyd, Driver Education and Motorcycle Rider Education Manager, Iowa DOT, Vania.boyd@iowadot.us." and show the Institute for Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation logos)