Brookhaven Highway Department Brings Teen Driver Safety Program into Local Schools
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Farmingville, NY – Young drivers were able to experience what could happen while driving distracted or impaired—from the safety of their school gymnasium—during the Brookhaven Highway Department’s Teen Driver Safety Program held at Bellport High School yesterday and today.

Funded through a grant from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), the program takes students through a variety of exercises designed to replicate the impairment created by drinking or texting. In one course, students drove electric cars through an obstacle course while wearing Fatal Vision goggles that alter their vision to simulate driving with a blood alcohol content ranging from .06 to .30 (the legal limit is .08). In another course, they drove the electric cars while sending and receiving text messages.

"Programs like this provide students with hands-on experience of what it’s like to be behind the wheel of a vehicle while distracted or impaired, without the dangers of being out on our public roadways," said Brookhaven Town Highway Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro. "It’s extremely important that students experience this program and make good decisions, before the cones in our obstacle courses, become other cars or pedestrians."

Bellport High School brought the program to their students during the district’s observance of Red Ribbon Week. "I would recommend this program to any high school, particularly juniors and seniors, who are of or approaching driving age," said Bellport High School Principal Tim Hogan.

In addition to the South Country School District, several Long Island districts are bringing the Teen Driver Safety Program to their schools; district administrators interested in scheduling dates should contact the Brookhaven Highway Department’s Traffic Safety division at 631-363-3770.