

Danny Reed Places Second at Nationals

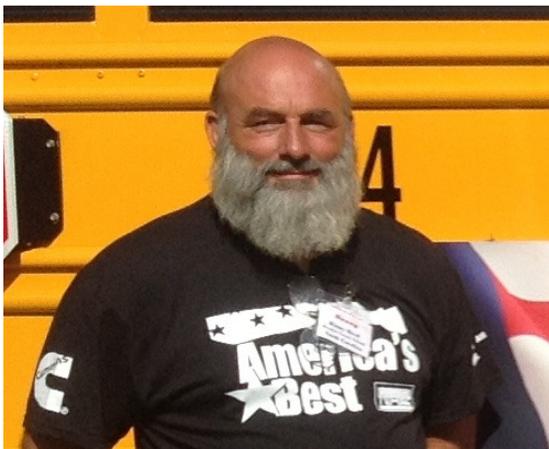


School bus technicians and school bus inspectors from across the country competed for the top spots in the National Association for Pupil Transportation's 2012 "America's Best Technician" and "America's Best Inspector" competitions, which were held September 25-38. Danny Reed (Beaufort) and Tom Sullivan (Dare) represented North Carolina at the annual competition.



Danny & Tom from NC

The competitions integrated a variety of training sessions, hands-on technical stations and team building exercises for both technicians and inspectors related to components and systems on school buses. They were hosted by the Cummins Engine plant in Rocky Mount, NC along with a number of other sponsors whom donate time and money to make this event possible.



Danny Reed from Beaufort County placed 2nd, missing 1st place by 3 points, was happy to bring home a plaque but was hoping to become the first two-time winner of the event. He says he will do his best to return next year for the competition in Seattle, Washington.



Tom Sullivan from Dare County and first time competitor receives his participation certificate from Bill Tousley, Transportation Director from Farmington MI and NAPT Event organizer.



NC was well represented at the competition. A special thanks to Nash Co. for providing the buses.



Keith Whitley instructs Americas best

The competitors had a day of classes and written testing. Randy Henson, Keith Whitley, Craig Warren, & Robert Taylor taught a 3 hour version of the NC Inspector Certification course to the Inspection contestants. The hands-on competition was the second day. One of the evenings everyone went to a local bowling alley for dinner and friendly bowling competition.



The DPI crew went on a 2 hour tour of the massive Cummins Engine plant. The assembly line was over 3000 feet long and consisted of 100's of stations where each component was installed as the engines passed by. Many of the stations were robotic type machinery.



Tom Sullivan (left) checks out an engine which will eventually power a NC school bus



Contestants were encouraged to build a pinewood derby bus. The buses were thoroughly inspected by race officials to see that weight and aerodynamic features met strict specifications©

The top 3 winners for the 2012 America's Best Training and Skills Challenge are:

TECHNICIANS

- 1st Place - Alan Fidler - IN - Tippecanoe Schools
- 2nd Place - Steve Addison, Jr - GA - Coweta County Schools
- 3rd Place - John Maxwell - IA - Dallas Center-Grimes

INSPECTORS

- 1st Place - Jack Defibaugh - WV - Greenbrier County Schools
- 2nd Place - Danny Reed - NC - Beaufort County Schools**
- 3rd Place - Shane Cochran - AL - Jefferson County Schools