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Montana's REAL ID public information campaign receives award for public

engagement excellence

On November 14, Keeping IDentities Safe awarded the Montana Department of Justice's Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) with its Public Engagement Excellence Award for the MVD's REAL ID public information campaign and new website, mtrealid.gov.

The award was presented by Brian Zimmer, president of Keeping IDentities Safe, for "MVD's significant public outreach through 'The Real Me' REAL ID website and creative information campaign." MVD Administrator Sarah Garcia accepted the award during a ceremony at the Attorney General's Office.

"The Real Me" campaign is a collaboration between MVD and Montana State University Billings (MSU-Billings) staff and students, which received a separate award from Keeping IDentities Safe for their significant contributions in Billings.

"Our Motor Vehicle Division continually seeks new ways to assist the public with navigating complex information and services, including REAL ID," Attorney General Tim Fox said. "MVD's commitment to finding engaging ways to serve the public by leveraging technology, creativity, and partnerships is an integral part of its customer focus, and I'm delighted with the recognition the MVD team received."

"Our collaboration with MSU-Billings offered us a unique opportunity and fresh perspective on how to best reach out to Montanans about REAL ID and the choices that are available to citizens soon," MVD Administrator Sarah Garcia said. "We're really excited our public information campaign was honored."

MSU-Billings students researched the campaign's market and theme, which features Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as they attempt to navigate Montana without REAL IDs. Students working on the public information campaign developed scripts for TV and radio public service announcements, social media posts, online ads, and print materials. MSU-Billings Chancellor Dan Edelman said, "I am proud of this collaborative learning opportunity that gave our students real-world experience resulting in a creative campaign that is positively impacting the MVD's REAL ID efforts. The perspectives students brought to the table along with the expertise of our talented faculty truly enhanced the campaign's effectiveness in this distinct partnership."

To learn more, visit mtrealid.gov or follow @mtrealid on Facebook.



Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division receives award for national security excellence

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) received the 2018 National Security Excellence Award from Keeping Identities Safe on December 4 for its decade-long commitment to enhancing the security and integrity of the state's driver credentialing system.

At the award event in Glen Burnie, Maryland Secretary of Transportation Rahn said "MDOT MVA is serious about keeping the personal information of the millions of Marylanders that we serve safe and secure."

"We appreciate receiving this recognition of the steps that have been taken to secure Maryland Driver's Licenses and Identification cards, helping to protect Maryland residents from identity theft and fraud. We are committed to ensuring the documents our customers entrust to us are protected and the documents that we issue are as secure as possible," said Administrator Nizer.

The Maryland Driver's License and Identification card feature multiple layers of security to help prevent identity theft and fraud.

Mr. Zimmer said Keeping IDentities Safe presented awards to state agencies and state officials both to recognize state achievements and to raise public awareness that document security and identity protection are very important components of driver's license issuance and management. He said " Maryland MVD's team acts in coordination to prevent crime by maintaining high standards in confirming identity claims. We were pleased to present employees throughout the organization with individual certificates including the language of the award, to highlight that people make the difference in identity security awareness as well as in public service."

Keeping IDentities Safe President Brian Zimmer, said "Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration well deserves CSDL's 2018 award for 'National Security Excellence,' honoring its distinctive crime fighting accomplishments through relentless fraud investigations and conscientious efforts in fraud prevention. Its procedures for vetting driver's license applicants meet the REAL ID standards and set a stellar example for other states who wish to emulate their identity fraud prevention approach. Maryland's thorough identity and residency authentication of driver's license and ID applicants protect state residents from identity fraud, and provide an extra level of security for the many secure federal facilities located in the state."

Mr. Zimmer also said "Maryland's review and verification process for proof of identity and proof of residency are among the best in the nation. Because of that, the process often reveals fraud perpetrated by identity thieves and traffickers, and Maryland follows through by referring fraudsters to the wheels of Justice."

Mr. Zimmer noted that there is a very high level of coordination between Maryland's driver's license agency and local police, resulting in positive identification of both crime victims and those that perpetrate crimes. He said "Maryland MVD has been refining its identity fraud prevention and detection skills for a decade, and deserves its national reputation for excellence in confirming people are who they claim to be. This vigilance improves the identity management security of all state agencies, with public safety benefits that go beyond highway safety. The collaborative work with other state agencies and with law enforcement is a model to be

emulated by driver's license agencies in other states. Maryland MVD does not hesitate to cancel driver's licenses should fraud or identity manipulation be present."

The language on the award cited the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration in recognition for enhanced security measures that benefit the national security of the United States. The award citation read:

It is with an unwavering commitment to protecting the citizens of this country that the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License hereby recognizes the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration for its decade long enhancements to the security and integrity of the state's driver credentialing system. It is also recognized for its continuing regional and national coordinative efforts to protect the personal identity information of state residents.

Among the first states to become REAL ID compliant, its security-enhanced driver license and the identity theft preventative measures such as, proof of identity verification, document fraud training and investigations, and physical and logical security improvements within motor vehicle facilities illustrate why it is a national leader in driver license security.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration has also shared its crime prevention expertise with other states, including interstate cooperation to prevent individuals from violating the one driver, one license standard, and to prevent multi-state identity fraud.



Montana State University - Billings receives award for excellence in its REAL ID campaign

On November 13, Keeping IDentities Safe presented an award to a number of Montana State University Billings students and faculty for their roles in creating TV advertisements advising Montanans about the state's new REAL ID driver's licenses. The commercials inform residents of the availability, costs, and benefits of upgrading to a REAL ID license.

[Click here for the story](#)

Ohio moves to secure online renewal system to deployed military and their families

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is set to begin offering online driver license renewals to deployed members of the military as well as their immediate families. The new online process typically saves two weeks of processing time.

"Ohio has men and women deployed to locations across the globe in service to our nation. Being able to go online from anywhere in the world to renew a driver license or identification card will be an incredible resource for them and their families," said Maj. Gen. Mark Bartman, the adjutant general and Ohio National Guard commander.

The new process saves time by offering immediate feedback to applicants when there is an error or problem with their renewal. Applicants will receive e-mail updates as to the status of their renewal.

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Female crime trio in Michigan broken up by diligent police work

Three Michigan women have been charged with stealing mail as part of an identity theft scheme. The trio are accused of stealing uncollected incoming and outgoing mail, checks, and driver's licenses. They would then alter the checks to write in new payees and amounts payable.

"In some cases, the conspirators made the altered checks payable to individuals whose driver's licenses they had stolen or otherwise obtained, and cashed (or attempted to cash) the checks at financial institutions. In other cases, the conspirators used the altered checks to purchase merchandise, which they kept or returned for refunds," Assistant US Attorney Nils Kessler said.

Jessica Ann Ledger, Shadow Nicole Kornmiller and Beatrice Michael Brown are charged with conspiracy to commit bank fraud, possession of stolen mail and aggravated-identity theft. Bank fraud alone carries a possible 30 year maximum prison sentence.

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Another American citizen falls victim to identity theft

A Dominican national living in New Hampshire pleaded guilty in federal court to aggravated identity theft, Social Security fraud and making false statements. Gency Junior Nunez Barrera



Beatrice Michael Brown
(mlive.com)

stole the identity of an American citizen from Puerto Rico and used that identity to work and get a New Hampshire driver's license. Nunez Barrera was caught when he went to the Division of Motor Vehicles to try to get a replacement driver's license. The DMV caught the application and he was arrested.

"Identity theft is a serious crime that can cause substantial harm to its victims," said U.S. Attorney Scott Murray. "It can often be very challenging for victims of identity theft and clear up financial or criminal issues that result from this crime." Nunez Barrera will be sentenced in February and could face deportation upon completion of his sentence.

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Louisiana needs to spend money to stop theft at the motor vehicle agency

An audit revealed that three state employees embezzled nearly \$100K from the Louisiana driver's license agency. The theft was made easier because of 40-year old computer systems and a forced reduction in staffing by the state legislature.

"Due to the age of the solution, the ability to implement current anti-theft programmatic edits is impossible," state officials said. A contributing cause is a 33% cut in staff.

"The reduction in staff significantly reduces the agency's ability to consistently comply with manual internal controls implemented to deter theft and monitor daily transactions performed by business partners," according to a state report.

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COUNTERFEIT IDS:
A NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT

Swift work by Maryland MVD shuts down major fraudulent document mill

Thanks to the Maryland MVD, a major fraudulent document operation has been shut down. This fraud scheme investigation began in August of 2017 and during the approximate 14-month investigation, investigators identified and spoke with four people who used fraudulent

documents to obtain a Maryland driver's license.

The MDOT MVA was able to determine that documents created by Ordonez and submitted to the MDOT MVA by the out-of-state residents showed identical banking and address information. Investigation has determined that at least 37 additional people have provided the fraudulent documentation from Ordonez to MDOT MVA.

MDOT MVA has notified MCP that their office is in the process of cancelling the previously issued Maryland driver's licenses that had been obtained through the use of the fraudulent documents provided from Ordonez. The Public Affairs Office for the Maryland Department of Transportation - Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration released a statement indicating that its Investigations Division "proactively investigates issues related to identity and residence fraud, working with law enforcement and consumers to ensure the security and integrity of Maryland's driver's licenses and identification cards."

[Click here for the story](#)



Rhode Island DMV says not to worry about REAL ID for a couple years

Rhode Island begins offering REAL ID on December 3. However, a Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles spokesman says not to hurry to get a REAL ID just yet. The DMV acknowledges that you will need one to board a commercial airline after October 2020 but that you won't need one before then. Our readers probably know better. If you have a calendar and "do the math," either a lot of people DO need to hurry to get a REAL ID in Rhode Island or else plan to drive to Florida in the Winter of 2020.

[Click here for the story](#)

Support Keeping IDentities Safe



- By raising awareness
 - By working with
 - By helping states comply with REAL ID
 - By working with state legislators all over the country
 - By providing research
 - By working every day to protect your identity documents!
- We can only continue to do this with your support*



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Happy Holidays

Keeping Identities Safe
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