

SBL DRIVING ACADEMY

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INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Each week, SBL Truck Driving Academy will be spotlighting a student. These spotlights will include their journey thus far, what interests them most about trucking, and maybe even future plans.

CORONAVIRUS

HOS suspended for essential loads and an extension for CDL med cards and expiration dates?

GRADUATES!

Our first day class graduated in March.

HIGHWAY HEREOS

A few words from truckers on how the industry has changed, their thoughts, and what they are doing to move America's goods.

TRAINING IN THE ELEMENT

SBL DA students keep "truckin" through the severe weather and difficult weather conditions

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Director Bailey elaborates on the students and their progress, along with why he strives to make SBL Driving Academy a top tier driving school.

Student Spotlight

Mr. Dogan



Mr. Dogan is a native of Greenville, SC and still resides there with his wife and three children. In 2006, he was employed by a trucking company's body shop. He worked on the trucks which sparked his interest in them. A few years later, he began to work as a box truck driver, which made him even more interested in driving an 18-wheeler. Mr. Dogan said after he graduates, he may drive a "flatbed or a dump truck". When asked about what he liked most about his training his response, "The staff is great! They are very dedicated. The training has been wonderful, and I have made some friends along the way."

Mr. Dogan has done a magnificent job in his program at SBL Driving Academy. He is in his last phase of the course where students are tested on the range and on the road. Mr. Braziel described Mr. Dogan as "a good guy. He is a lot of fun to be around.... always upbeat and a very positive attitude". Director of SBL Driving Academy said, "Mr. Dogan has such a great attitude. He is always laughing or smiling. He seems to also be a very dedicated family man." Mr. Dogan is definitely on the road to success and we cannot wait to see where the path leads him.

Coronavirus and the Trucking Industry

The coronavirus has impacted America greatly over the last few weeks. Children are home schooling, a lot of the country is working at home, and there has been a huge increase in everyday commodities, along with medical supplies. Due to the demand, the government suspended the hours-of-service laws for truckers who are transporting essential items.

Additionally, the SCDMV released notes of interest last week. All licenses and permits with an expiration date of March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 will be treated as valid until July 1, 2020. SCDMV also suspended the road portion of the CDL test over the last two weeks. They are set to begin testing again April 1, 2020. This impacted SBL DA's first day class of the year. All students had to be re-scheduled for their road test.



Graduates



Our first day class of the year graduated on March 23, 2020. The overall classroom final grade average was 96.5%. Each person who attended the first class of the year was very dedicated and work hard to reach their goals. Two of our students had a prospective employer speak to them about a job the day they graduated. We had 100% pass-rate with CLP's and Graduation. This class will be finishing up their CDL testing this week and next.

SBL DA is very pleased with our most recent class and wish them the best of luck!

Highway Heroes



As the pandemic developed throughout our country, shelves were bare in a matter of days. Essential items have become scarce. Due to the pandemic and the mass purchases from Americans, it fell upon the trucking industry to get these products moved across America to fill shelves.

Not only are truckers supplying the essential needs of Americans, but they are delivering medical supplies, medications, and moving equipment necessary for our country to successfully fight this pandemic. SBL DA would like to recognize all of these Highway Heroes out there who are keeping America running in this time of need. We Salute You!

Training in the Elements

It is not a secret. Here at the academy, our weather is very sporadic and severe at times. Our Director always ensures it is safe to operate in these conditions, but also knows that this is the type of weather these drivers will be facing when they get behind the wheel and in their new careers; therefore, he capitalizes on it. Our instructors were found out on the range and on the road with the students during foggy conditions, severe weather, and minor flooding. These conditions posed some great training insight for our recently graduated class.



From the Director's Desk



Everyone we meet who attends classes here at the Academy has their own story that is unique and yet familiar to some of us personally. We have all faced hardships and trials, the difference we see here is these folks have overcome or are in the process of overcoming the obstacles in their lives. Truly these students are not being defined by their circumstances but rather how they have chosen to respond to their circumstances. In short, they refuse to give up on themselves.

One story will always stand out is a student who attended classes here, had been raising his sister since she was 14 years old, working a full-time job of 12-hour shifts, and attended classes as a full-time student. That's dedication!!!!!!!

Another, who had previously driven trucks but had health issues and ended up having an organ transplant. This person could have stayed on disability and made ends meet but rather choose to come to school get the license back and re-enter the trucking industry because in his words, "I want to work" that's pure resilience and the heart to not give up but push harder to make a life on his own terms.

We meet all types of people here, but the common theme is they are all looking to enter a job market that pays much better than the average jobs out there today. It is a lot of hard work, sweat equity, and dedication to become a professional truck driver, but the reward on the other end of training is a person walks away with a professional certification and credentials that are worth in the neighborhood of 60,000 their first year on the job.

Its these people we meet that makes us do what we do and work harder and dig deeper to make their dreams their reality.

Have you Thanked a Trucker Lately?

We should always be thankful for truckers, especially since they haul most of the items, we use daily. The pandemic has brought a lot of awareness to the trucking industry. In the month of April, we are promoting the hashtag #ThankATrucker. If you have a friend, loved one, family member, or if you are a trucker; use this hashtag and share your thoughts. Feel free to tag SBL Driving Academy as well @SBLDA.