



MACPS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY 2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CHARLIE VITS

22 YEARS IN CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

For more than two decades, Charlie Vits has been on the front line of the effort to improve safety for the millions of children who ride school buses every day. While his work toward Target Zero continues to this day, there is no question that best practice options in the student transportation field have vastly improved during his tenure, and Charlie has played an outsized role in these developments.



Many people across the country consider Charlie to be the personification of the effort to equip all school buses with lap-shoulder belts. While tackling this topic is part of Charlie's job at IMMI, he has thrown himself into that long, arduous campaign with extraordinary commitment, effort, and resilience that goes far beyond his job description. This movement required a champion, and Charlie notably stepped up. Few people would have been able to withstand the rigors and setbacks inherent to this effort, but Charlie has persevered, patiently measuring successes district-by-district and state-by-state.

In addition to lap-shoulder belts for bus seating, Charlie has been instrumental in the introduction of other innovative CPS products, including the SafeGuard Star Seat (an add-on CR developed just for school buses) and the IMMI Go (a unique CR for passenger vehicles). Like few others in the school bus field, Charlie is a CPST who has maintained his certification for many years. To cap off that commitment, he is now completing a successful tenure on the National Child Passenger Safety Board. Charlie has distinguished himself as an outstanding advocate for child safety and worthy of a place in the CPS Hall of Fame.

Below are some of the notable accomplishments Charlie has made in the child passenger safety arena.

- B. Mechanical Engineering - Georgia Institute of Technology, 1977
- M. S. Mechanical Engineering - University of Michigan, 1979
- M. Automotive Engineer - Chrysler Institute of Engineering, 1979
- Employed at IMMI for 22 years
- Previous employment for many years was in occupant protection role at Ford
- Responsible for design and development of the IMMI school bus seat, a groundbreaking effort that has revolutionized options for the school transportation field.
- Involved in many innovative programs, including development of IMMI Go seat for use in ride-sharing and other applications.
- Member of the National CPS Board.
- Currently serving in a leadership role on the committee to update the NHTSA CPS Restraint Systems on School Buses National Training curriculum.
- Member of the MACPS Hall of Fame Sub-Committee

