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Coffee with Molly

WHAT MONEY CANNOT BUY

From May to August each year, our state affiliates and sister organizations hold their annual conventions and meetings. For about ten weeks, everyone who does business in student transportation is on the move! For me, it is my Olympics! I love being able to do workshops, keynotes, exhibit and meet our members face to face!

Every year, these meetings along with our annual conferences remind me very clearly why I love this industry and this profession. It comes down to three words: mission, people and impact. Our mission is to promote student safety, which provides all students with the opportunity to attend school and events and to support the people who provide these services. Mission is what gives us the why.

People are number two...and for me, you are the heart of this industry. In my many years in educational leadership and organizations, I have never met a more passionate, caring, professional and dedicated group. The yellow army is one of amazing human beings that are an honor to work with and for.

The final word is impact. What NAPT members do every day, makes an impact. Every day, every bus driver, mechanic, router, trainer and director impacts the lives of the children we serve. We not only transport but we also act as ambassadors for our education systems. If you cannot get to school, you cannot learn. If you cannot get to the athletic or band competition, you cannot participate, what you do makes a difference and an impact.

What money cannot buy is the dedication of the people in student transportation. While salaries are important—they are only a part of our career trajectory. We also need to feel valued, appreciated and wanted. We need to be heard and to have the tools we need to do our jobs. We need our employers and the public to understand why the yellow school bus is the safest form of transportation and why the people operating them are trustworthy and amazing!

Thank you for your service to our children and our organizations! NAPT salutes you and your professionalism and looks forward to working with you in the future. We cannot put a price on you - to us...you are priceless.

