

UA research center awarded grant to look at highway safety

Staff Report

A University of Alabama research center has been awarded a \$503,232 grant to provide a comprehensive look at safety on the state's highways. The funding will enable state officials to determine how effective measures are to reduce automobile crashes, save lives and prevent injuries.

The grant, awarded by Gov. Bob Riley, will enable the UA's CARE Research and Development Laboratory to continue its annual assessment of highway safety by compiling and analyzing highway safety data.

"Every year Alabamians are killed or injured in highway crashes that could have been prevented," Riley said. "It is our goal to make sure that Alabama highways are as safe as possible and that means removing unsafe drivers from the roads and addressing other highway safety issues. The information provided through this analysis is invaluable to state and local law enforcement officers."

Data received helps researchers determine the cause and location of crashes and develop strategies, if necessary, to improve highway safety. The information can also help local jurisdictions improve traffic safety in their communities. CARE conducts training for local law enforcements agencies to help them make best use of the data.

Riley notified Cynthia Hope, director of CARE, that the grant had been approved. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs will administer the grant.

Funds for the grant were made available through a program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.