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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DA Offers Program to Assist Drivers With a Suspended License

The goal is to help unlicensed drivers get their license back and learn how to follow the law

(Woodland, CA) – May 23, 2011- Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that his office has formed a partnership with Pacific Educational Services, Inc. (PES) to provide a diversion program to educate suspended and unlicensed drivers who are facing criminal charges.

The objective of the class is to provide participants the tools and a plan to overcome current circumstances to become a legal driver, properly licensed and insured. Most of the participants suffer from a suspended license due to their failure to comply with certain DMV regulations and other conditions. The PES course provides concise and practical information including: an explanation of the real cost of continuing to drive on a suspended license, helping participants understand the laws and violations that resulted in the suspension, the DMV and court system and processes, the reason their license was suspended in the first place, and the steps to obtain their license. The class also encourages participants to take responsibility for their behavior and understand that in most cases they can get their license reinstated.

Class participants admit to the charges in court and then attend a one day, six hour PES class taught by expert instructors who are informative and also entertaining. Upon successful completion of the program, their criminal charges are dismissed.

PES President Walter Stockman has been working with Reisig to develop a program that fits the needs of Yolo County. “PES is delighted to provide the Driving Program for the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office,” said Stockman. “This program aids unlicensed drivers and drivers with suspended licenses to come into compliance with the DMV licensing requirements.”

Stockman has been working with Orange County on a similar program since 2009. Prior to the program, over 1 in 5 (or 22 %) of these types of traffic violators were committing

the same or similar offenses. After the first full year of the program in 2009, statistics from the Orange County District Attorney's Office show that the number of recidivists dropped to about 1 in 20, or 6 %.

One participant in the Yolo County program complimented the program. He stated, "It was great. It made me realize what I should be doing and [that I should] do things the right way." Another remarked, "It provides a lot of good information for dealing with the myriad of charges that can lead to license suspension."

District Attorney Reisig described the program as beneficial to all parties involved. "This program serves many purposes, including getting these folks out of the cycle of suspended licenses, avoiding costly criminal court cases, and making our roads safer," said Reisig. Reisig anticipates that up to 200 criminal cases per year will be eligible for the diversion program.

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