

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# The Murphy Sisters Foundation Helps Teen Drivers Stay In Control on Roadways

*Murphy Insurance and Commerce Insurance subsidize life-saving crash prevention training for high school students*

**Worcester, April 3, 2007** – The Murphy Sisters Foundation is teaming with The Commerce Insurance Company and D. Francis Murphy Insurance Agency to provide potentially life-saving crash prevention training to local high school students. The course will be taught by In Control Advanced Driver Training on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> at Worcester Airport. In Control is the nation’s largest advanced driver training provider and was recently certified as the first Driver Skills Development Program in Massachusetts. The training is provided at a crucial time when warmer weather and events such as proms and graduation celebrations result in more young drivers hitting the roads.

The Murphy Sisters Foundation was established in memory of Shauna and Meghan Murphy, teen sisters from Southborough who attended Algonquin Regional High School. The Murphy sisters died in an October, 2005 crash that was blamed, in part, on driver error. The Murphy Sisters Foundation was formed with the mission of creating awareness and education for teenagers and young adults on the importance of safe driving principles. Thanks to the Foundation, Commerce Insurance and D. Francis Murphy Insurance, 40 students from Algonquin and Milford High Schools have the opportunity to learn hands-on accident avoidance skills in a safe environment at a significantly reduced cost.

“We’ve been excited to see the growth of In Control’s skid school program and are thrilled to sponsor such a large group of students at once,” said Chris Murphy, father of Shauna and Meghan, and President of the Murphy Sisters Foundation. “Advanced driver training plays an integral role in educating teens on the importance of using safe driving principles. The students learn that the car can be a weapon, and that weapon can kill innocent people if not used properly and safely. The Foundation was created in memory of my daughters, with the goal of educating our teens and reinforcing those safe driving principles.”

“In Control’s program not only gives young drivers hands-on experience, it also creates lifelong attitudes to respect the dangers inherent with driving an automobile,” said Dennis Murphy III of Murphy Insurance Agency (no relation to Chris Murphy and his family). “This results in safer roads for everyone now, fewer accidents, and will ultimately lower the costs of auto insurance across the board as we train more young people to be safe drivers.”

“For more than three years we have recommended In Control’s program to Independent Agents and their policyholders,” said Greg Leonard, Vice President of

Marketing at The Commerce Insurance Company. “In Control's unique crash prevention training is incredibly valuable for new and inexperienced drivers. Commerce is proud to be the first insurer to promote and support this training and we are thrilled that we can help make it available to drivers who need it the most.”

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### **About In Control Advanced Driver Training**

In Control Advanced Driver Training was founded in 2003 by professional racecar driver

Brandon Bogart in an effort to lower the number of accidents caused by driver error. Automobile crashes are the number one killer of people under 45 and In Control's program has been found to reduce crash rates in new drivers by 70 percent.

The half day In Control program is an extreme crash prevention training course designed to not only teach participants the appropriate way to respond to unavoidable, real-life road situations, but also to instill lifelong attitudes that make safer drivers. This closed course hands-on education was adapted from existing law enforcement training that Bogart has been instructing for more than a decade.

In Control is the first advanced driver training course certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and graduates, regardless of driving experience, qualify to receive Massachusetts auto insurance discounts up to 10%. In Control has trained over 7,000 students and receives limitless praise from graduates, parents, schools, police departments, insurance companies, legislators and community groups all over New England. The course is held on closed airport runways and other large paved areas where students are able to practice emergency maneuvers in a safe environment. In Control operates a fixed site facility at the South Weymouth Naval Air Station and a Mobile Crash Prevention Classroom which serves locations throughout New England including North Andover, Worcester and Cape Cod. For more information about In Control Advanced Driver Training, please visit: [www.WeDriveInControl.com](http://www.WeDriveInControl.com).

### **About Murphy Insurance Agency**

Murphy Insurance Agency is a family owned and operated, independent insurance agency founded in 1937. Murphy Insurance is headquartered in Hudson, MA and serves the personal, business and financial insurance needs of individuals, families and businesses across Massachusetts with the objective making insurance simple for its customers.

The agency is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> year in business. It was one of the first agencies to achieve the prestigious Five Star Agency Designation conferred by the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents ([http://www.massagent.com/fivestar/5star\\_new.cfm](http://www.massagent.com/fivestar/5star_new.cfm)). To do so, an agency must pass a rigorous fitness review and maintain those standards to be recertified every three years. Murphy Insurance has seven (7) offices located in Bolton, Groton, Harvard, Hudson, Marlborough, Mendon and Milford.