By Nikki Dotson

WAYNE - Wayne High School students got a crash course in what it feels like to drive under the influence on Thursday.

Students were given the opportunity to participate in The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration's DUI Simulator, a system that allows participants to experience different levels of impairment in different situations.

Andrew Roy, a student at WHS, said the simulator is harder than you might think.

“It gets really difficult the further you go, once you reach point six you can’t steer,” Roy said.

Public Health Educator Dan Pickens said the simulator takes a different approach of teaching kids the dangers of driving under the influence.

“The survey helps to find out safety patterns of teen drivers,” Pickens said. “It not only covers DUI, but not wearing a seat belt, texting and driving and other trends.”

Brandon Multari said the simulator experience is a very good way to teach the effects substances can have on you.

“It’s pretty cool to see how you would act if you were drunk,” Multari said. “It’s a safe way to learn.”

Michelle Blanton, English teacher at WHS, supports the idea of the simulator.

“It’s important for students to see what it feels like to be in those kind of situations,” she said.

Pickens said in a place where many people have been lost to DUIs, he’s passionate about teaching teens the effects.

“It’s something every parent worries about,” he said. “It affects so many different people, and having kids of my own makes it a worry.”

The DUI Simulator is sponsored by State Farm Insurance and the Governors Highway Safety Association.

SURVEY SAYS – Wayne High School student Andrew Roy completes a survey after participating in a DUI simulator on Thursday. WCN photo by Nikki Dotson

STEADY AS SHE GOES – Wayne High School student Brandon Multari participates in a DUI Simulator on Thursday. WCN photo by Nikki Dotson

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you never!

I love you, Jill

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