Wednesday, August 6, 1969

## THE BATTALION

## **Driver Education Tops At A&**

moved the state from a mediocre position to one of national prominence, with Texas A&M playing an important role.

Dr. Leslie V. Hawkins of A&M's Industrial Education Department is spearheading a summer program to train non-professional teachers' aides and professional teaching supervisors to areas," he said.

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schools.

The program is in its second year and Dr. Hawkins feels the results have been successful.

"Schools have accepted the responsibility to make drivers edubut training qualified instructors has been a problem in some

A&M is helping solve this problem through a summer program financed through the governor's office from federal funds. It is the only program of its kind in the nation.

The basic idea is to employ non-professional teachers to in-

Providing better drivers edu-cation for Texas' teenagers has drivers education in Texas high sional supervisors directing the programs, Dr. Hawkins explained. Currently A&M is training 59 teacher aides and 53 certified teachers at the A&M Research Annex. The aides take a six-week course and the regular teachers cation available to all students, are enrolled in a four-week supervisors training program.

About one-third of both classes are made up of women, Dr. Hawkins noted.

During 1968, the first year of the program, 54 teachers assistants and 44 certified instructors completed the courses.

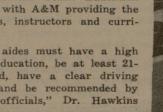
The program is financed thru a \$143,000 National Highway Safety Act grant. It is admin-

istered through the governor's office to the Texas Education Agency with A&M providing the facilities, instructors and curriculum.

"The aides must have a high school education, be at least 21years-old, have a clear driving record and be recommended by school officials," Dr. Hawkins said.

"Enrollment in the aide courses

retired armed forces people-all interested in part-time or fulltime instructor assignments to supplement their income."



consists of school district bus drivers, housewives, salesmen, law enforcement personnel and

ject driving situations on a movie screen.

## SIMULATED TRAINING

Dr. Leslie V. Hawkins, standing, gives instructions to 16 members of a drivers education class receiving training in a Link Driving Trainer. The simulator is one of two operated by Texas A&M during its summer school for teaching assistants and aide supervisors. The instruction is similar to that received by pilots with a movie projector used to pro-

