

the emirates

road to safety

Students are steered in the right direction

Ramona Ruiz

DUBAI // Eighty students took part in a driving skills challenge yesterday in a bid to promote safe motor habits among young people.

The event at the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) Dubai Men's Campus was part of a campaign launched recently by FedEx Express. It was supported by Dubai Police and the Emirates Motor Sports Federation.

Students at five Dubai-based universities attended interactive lectures and took part in a simulator experience last week.

Yesterday, the campaign culminated with a driving skills challenge competition among HCT Dubai Women's Campus, the American University in Dubai, Majma'a University, HCT Dubai Men's Campus and Bits Pilani. Each university nominated 16 members.

The timed challenge consisted of a slalom, which required participants to weave through some obstacles, a roundabout, and a lot of winding course. They experienced manoeuvres to improve their car-handling abilities, work towards improving their driving techniques and understand the concept of using skill over speed.

If a driver touched or knocked down two cones, two seconds were added to the time. If three cones were hit the driver was disqualified.

"It was exciting," said Roshanara Sait, director of Ciel Marketing and Events, which organised the event. "I've seen some skilled drivers. Each one wanted to have a better time than the others."

This challenge required perfect turning and timing and the skill to manoeuvre around the track,"



A student shows his ability – or lack of it – in the FedEx Express Driving Skills Challenge held at Higher Colleges of Technology Dubai Men's Campus. Three knocked-down cones led to disqualification. Pawan Singh / The National

said Zubair Ansan, 23, a media and communications student at Manipal University. "I learned that you'll lose more time if you go faster. I had to manage my speed. If you speed up, you won't have complete control of your car."

Kevin Alexander, 20, a mechanical engineering student at the same university, said the roundabout was "a bit tricky".

"I could have done better on a couple of turns but it was fun," he said. "The J-turn was quite easy. We also had the U-turn and an S-turn."

Mr Alexander said the driving challenge taught him and other



Six winners were appointed as 'road safety ambassadors' and received trophies

drivers to keep their distance and not to go beyond the speed limit.

All participants received certificates endorsed by Dubai Police. Six winners – three men and three women – were appointed as "road safety ambassadors" and received trophies.

The male winners were Al Malek Ossama Issam El Halabi, of American University of Dubai, Rameez Abdul Salam, of Bits Pilani, and Mr Ansan. The female winners, Sara Y, Alya S and Rehab S, were all from HCT Dubai Women's College.