

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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North Carolina High Schools Plan Teen Safe Driving Activities

October 18, 2012 - Thanks to the Allstate Foundation, Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Inc. presented grants to North Carolina high schools to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. Teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted during key times of the year including holidays, Teen Safe Driving Month (May), prom and graduation.

Participating schools include:

West Charlotte High School – Charlotte, NC - West Charlotte High School holds the distinction of being SAVE's very first Chapter. The Chapter has a lot of plans for the coming school year. During America's Safe School Week in October, law enforcement will speak to students and ribbons and wristbands will be distributed in support of keeping the school safe. Plans are underway to partner with MOMO (Mothers of Murdered Offspring) in the spring of 2013. National Youth Traffic Safety month in May 2013 will have students pledging to not text and drive and participating in an impaired goggle obstacle driving course. Erica Nicholson is the Chapter's Advisor.

Chapel Hill High School – Chapel Hill, NC - Chapel Hill High School's Chapter will participate in the Allstate Safe Teen Driving Initiative again this year. Safe schools will be highlighted in the Fall and anti-bullying in the Spring. Ribbons will be placed on lockers to represent statistics, seat belt checks will be conducted, and a "Break the Chain of Bullying" event is being planned. "Toilet Talk", the popular campaign where positive messages and choices are posted in campus bathrooms will continue again this year. In May, students will participate in an impaired vision goggles course. Mr. Jim Wise is Chapel High School's SAVE Advisor.

Harding University High School – Charlotte, NC - Among the plans for the school year, this Chapter will perform skits for the local school TV channel to be aired during America's Safe School Week. Events for the traffic safety awareness in the Spring are being coordinated with the Driver's Education instructor. The Advisor for this Chapter is First Sergeant Marcia Jeter.

Princeton High School – Princeton, NC - During America's Safety School Week, October 22-26, 2012, this Chapter will have a mock crash event with the assistance of community law enforcement. Poster and essay contests will also take place. In May the focus will be on safe driving and prom. Ms. Heather Richards is the Princeton SAVE Chapter's Advisor.

Cuthbertson High School – Waxhaw, NC - Activities for the school year include seat belt checks, anti-texting campaigns, and poster contests. An X the TXT event is planned for the spring to coordinate with prom activities. The Advisor is Ms. Leah Ross.

Highland School of Technology School – Gastonia, NC - Highland's SAVE Chapter has many activities planned for this year. Students will write I Believe statements, safe school and driving statistics will be posted, and a rally will

take place. A safe driving brochure will be developed to coordinate with promoting a safe prom. Dr. Ami Parker continues to advise the Highland SAVE Chapter.

Sun Valley High School – Monroe, NC -Sun Valley's SAVE Chapter will promote safe schools and driving during October. The annual "Mix It Up Day," when students sit with someone new at lunch and discuss the need for tolerance in our world, will be celebrated on October 17. During America's Safe Schools Week students will decorate the school with red ribbons, streamers, bows, and posters in celebration of Red Ribbon Week and man a Drug Free/Safe Driving booth at all four lunches. The booth will provide information about drug and alcohol free living along with pamphlets on safe/text-free driving, video clips, and a Drug-Free pledge signing. Safe driving awareness under the theme of "Rules of the Road" will take place in the Spring. In May, an X the TXT pledge event will coordinate with prom. The Chapter is advised by Mr. Jim Williams.

Garner Magnet High School – Garner, NC - Garner Magnet High School's SAVE Chapter will continue its mission this year to make their school a safe place with anti-bullying and pledge activities. A 'Silence the Violence' campaign is being planned for the Spring. The Chapter also has plans to host a mock crash, impaired driving course and X the TXT event in May with the assistance of local law enforcement. Ms. Vickie Szarek advises the Chapter.

Ray Street Academy – Graham, NC - Ray Street Academy is a new SAVE Chapter this year. Their plans include non-violence pledges, anti-bullying awareness and an X the TXT safe driving event in the Spring. Ms. Altamise Leach is the advisor for the SAVE Chapter at Ray Street Academy.

White Oak High School – Jacksonville, NC - Also a new Chapter this school year, White Oak High School looks forward to promoting school and traffic safety with announcements, presentations during driver's education and the development of a leadership team. Role playing activities addressing bullying and diversity are also being planned. Speakers from Allstate and the State Highway patrol will be invited to participate in highway safety activities in the Spring. Ms. Carol Jackson is the Chapter Advisor.

Southern School of Engineering – Durham, NC - This Chapter's plans for the school year include bringing in guest speakers from local law enforcement to discuss safe driving. Contests and other awareness activities will highlight National Youth Traffic Safety Month in May. Ms. Minnie Harrington is the Chapter Advisor.

E. A. Laney High School – Wilmington, NC - The SAVE Chapter at Laney High School is happy to be a participant again this year in the Allstate Teen Safe Driving Program. Their plans for the school year include SAVE membership drives, a service project, peer mediation training and the creation of PSAs. Spring activities include a teen safe driving rally and assembly, creating and distributing parent/student facts sheets, and sharing the message with partner middle schools. Ms. Beth Scheirer advises the Chapter.

Wakefield High School – Raleigh, NC - Wakefield High School will participate in the Allstate Teen Safe Driving Program in conjunction with their Just Think First Program. For 3 consecutive years, the JUST THINK FIRST...Choices Count program has been presented to the Healthful Living classes with an ANTI-TEXTING presentation. Approximately 800 students heard a safe driving message on September 27, 2012 about texting and driving and the importance of making good choices in a car. This anti-texting presentation is done several times throughout the school year and is presented by Master State Trooper Tommy Davis with the NC Highway Patrol. Students drove through an obstacle course on a golf cart, weaving through stop signs, cones, and various distractions that represent what one might find on the road, while receiving text messages from other participating students. Afterwards, a PowerPoint and video presentation emphasized figures, facts and statistics about texting and driving. Students received a rubber arm band embossed with the slogan JUST THINK FIRST and signed a safe driving pledge before they leave. The spring events will take place April 10 & 11 and May 8 & 9, 2013. The Wakefield SAVE Chapter Advisor is Dr. Vivian Wells.

Swansboro High School- Swansboro, NC - The new SAVE Chapter at Swansboro High School will create PSAs to be aired on the school's broadcast system in the Fall and safety posters promoting the Anti-Bullying March in May. Plans are in the works to bring the Arrive Alive Program to the school as a pre-Prom presentation. Ms. Krystal Tyndall advises this SAVE Chapter.

Terry Sanford High School – Fayetteville, NC - A new SAVE chapter and Allstate grant participant, Terry Sanford will address the issues of school and teen driving safety with films, presentations from the Department of transportation and a "No Texting While Driving" Campaign. Drunk driving demos and DWI autos will remind students of the dangers of distracted driving and students will sign a Prom Pledge to not drink & drive and to always buckle up. Mr. Kevin Hight is the SAVE Chapter advisor.

Rockingham Early College High School – Wentworth, NC – During America’s Safe School Week, October 22-26, 2012, this chapter will observe Red Ribbon Day, highlight domestic violence awareness and develop a PSA. In the Spring, there will be a focus on bullying awareness through school assemblies. Speakers on safe driving and choices around prom and graduation are being planned for the end of the school year. The SAVE Chapter is advised by Mr. William Smith.

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters will be able to provide leadership in their schools and communities to ensure that all students will be encouraged and empowered with healthy life skills while engaging in educational activities and opportunities to promote teen safe driving and youth safety.

SAVE is a peer-to-peer organization that focuses on the power of positive peer influences. According to the Allstate Foundation survey, *Shifting Teen Attitudes: The State of Teen Driving 2009*, peers are a major influence on teens – both positive and negative. Some of the concerning statistics that SAVE chapters will address include:

- Eighty-two percent of teens reported using cell phones while driving.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of girls admit they are likely to speed more than 10 mph over the limit, versus 36 percent of boys.
- Seventy-seven percent of teens admit they have felt unsafe with another teen's driving.

“This generous grant from The Allstate Foundation will assist students in finding real solutions to the issues of teen safe driving that they face each day,” stated SAVE’s executive director, Carleen Wray.

“By empowering teens to become smart driving activists in their schools and communities, we hope to reverse the staggering statistics,” said Allstate representative Thomas Walters of Walters Insurance Agency, Inc.

“Through The Allstate Foundation, we seek to develop innovative, teen-focused approaches to raise awareness of the issue and, ultimately, to help save lives and reduce injuries,” said Nancy Lemke of The Allstate Foundation.

About The Allstate Foundation:

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL). Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations across the country, The Allstate Foundation brings the relationships, reputation and resources of Allstate to support innovative and lasting solutions that enhance people's well-being and prosperity. With a focus on teen safe driving and building financial independence for domestic violence survivors, The Allstate Foundation also promotes safe and vital communities; tolerance, inclusion, and diversity; and economic empowerment. Over the last 60 years, the Foundation has contributed nearly \$300 million to organizations and projects in communities throughout the nation. For more information, visit www.allstatefoundation.org.

About the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere: SAVE started at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, N.C. in 1989 following the tragic death of a student who was trying to break up a fight at an off-campus party. Students met first to console each other, then as an organization to promote youth safety and to work together to prevent future incidents from occurring. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe activities for students, parents and communities. For more information on SAVE or starting a SAVE chapter, visit www.nationalsave.org, or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

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