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National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere Names Local Student to 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Board *Haley Abernathy, Senior at Highland School of Technology, Named to National Advisory Board*

Gastonia, NC. (June 22, 2015) — Carleen Wray, executive director of the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), has announced that Haley Abernathy, a senior at Highland School of Technology, has been selected as one of ten high school students from across the country to serve on the 2015-2016 National SAVE Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Members of the board are meeting in Raleigh NC to participate in a National Youth Leadership Institute on July 16-19 2015 where they will be trained as presenters and spokespersons for the national organization. At the institute, YAB members will also plan the 2016 National Youth Summit to be held in Raleigh NC on March 12, 2016.

According to her SAVE advisor, Dr. Ami Parker, "Haley was instrumental to the success of our SAVE activities. She is a ball of energy, always asking what more she can do." Outside of school, Haley's favorite hobbies are painting and baking and she has an established love of reading. Upon acceptance to Highland School of Technology, Haley joined SAVE (this is her fourth year) and HOSA (the Health Occupation Studies of America), where Haley now holds the position of Secretary of HOSA. Her passion for SAVE and HOSA continues to grow.

During her senior year Haley will serve as the President of the SAVE chapter at her school and the President of her school's HOSA executive board. This will be Haley's third year on the SAVE Youth Advisory Board. Haley said, "I have grown so much in the past three years and I have gained many of my accomplishments and leadership skills through SAVE. I am looking forward to meeting the new board members and savoring my last year on the board."

Members of the YAB will develop their leadership skills through participation in training sessions, discussions of best practices for school violence prevention and the practice of educational activities for sharing with other SAVE students. They will create goals for the year as well as a proactive action plan to combat violence through the implementation of the three essential elements of SAVE: crime prevention, conflict management and service projects.

SAVE is a student-run, student-initiated public nonprofit violence prevention organization with over 2,000 chapters in 48 states and more than 230,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide.

For additional information on the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Board visit
<http://nationalsave.org/youth-advisory-board/>

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 violence prevention 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.