



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere Names New Board Members

Raleigh, NC (September 23, 2013) — Carleen Wray, Executive Director of the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), has announced the addition of four new members to the organization's board of directors. These individuals will commit to and uphold the vision, mission and strategic plan of SAVE.

**Mary Katherine (MK) Alderman**, a North Carolina State University alum, with a background in marketing and finance is the Digital Content & Online Merchandising Specialist with The Body Shop International plc. Mrs. Alderman is involved with content development and execution for all social media platforms for The Body Shop and also has involvement with content development for The Body Shop's email program and websites. She is a design enthusiast with special interests in graphic design for digital spaces, mixed media art, residential architecture and interior design.

**Dr. Ami Parker**, was selected as the 2013 SAVE Advisor of the year. Her role as the SAVE advisor at Highland School of Technology in Gastonia, NC is evident by the student successes and the many positive milestones she and the SAVE Chapter have achieved over the past 13 years. Dr. Parker has been in education for 20 years, serving as an assistant principal and counselor. She also serves as the Southwest Region Vice President for the NC School Counselor Association and is the Past President of the NC Counseling Association. Dr. Parker received her Bachelors in Secondary Social Studies Education and Masters in Guidance and counseling from UNC, her Education Specialist degree from Winthrop University; and her Doctorate in Public Policy from UNC Charlotte.

**Elizabeth (Betsy) Rack** is a web content strategist and writer with a passion for community education. Ms. Rack currently works as a communications manager at Red Hat, the open source software company, planning and developing content for global audiences. She is also an independent consultant in web content strategy, helping organizations build and improve their websites. Combining a marketing background with publications editing, college English instruction and library program development, Ms. Rack has over 15 years of experience in educating and creating content for communities of both adults and children. She received her Master's degree in English from the University of Florida, studying communication and inspiration in online and offline communities formed around shared ideals.

**Michael Williams** has played an active role with SAVE since 1992 when he became a SAVE member at West Charlotte High School. While in college at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Michael helped to facilitate the first SAVE Youth Advisory Board and served as a speaker for SAVE. Williams has served as a middle school social studies teacher, has worked with at-risk students at a Title I high school, and now serves as a District Instructional Specialist with Cabarrus County Schools. He is also a member of the faculty of the College of Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte teaching courses centered on education and social justice. Michael has a Master of Education in Social Studies from UNC Charlotte, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University and has completed coursework toward his PhD in Educational Policy. He also holds a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

"We are thrilled to have these talented individuals join SAVE's board of directors," said Wray. "They bring a combination of business, community, youth engagement skills and strategic vision which will benefit SAVE as it examines its future goals, objectives and direction."

"We are honored to welcome these new board members to our organization. Their diverse backgrounds and perspectives are a testament to how SAVE's mission of reducing youth violence unites leaders from all segments of

society. I look forward to working with Ami, Michael, MK and Betsey to empower students from across the country with the tools, resources, and support they need to effect positive change in our schools and communities," said Jim Wise, Chairperson for the SAVE Board of Directors.

SAVE is a student-run, student-initiated public nonprofit violence prevention organization with over 2,100 chapters in 48 states and more than 230,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide.

**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](http://www.nationalsave.org), or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

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