

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere Names Local Student to 2012-2013 Youth Advisory Board** *Jaclyn Morton, Senior at Highland School of Technology, Named to National Advisory Board*

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GASTONIA, NC. (August 23, 2012)— Carleen Wray, executive director of the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), has announced that Jaclyn Morton, a senior at Highland School of Technology, has been selected as one of six high school students from across the country to serve on the 2012-2013 National SAVE Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Members of the board met in Raleigh, NC last week to participate in a National Youth Leadership Institute where they were trained as presenters and spokespersons for the national organization. At the Institute, Morton was elected by her peers to serve as President.

*"I joined SAVE because I had a desire to help improve the well being of our society's youth. When I discovered there was a chance to further my SAVE experience with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), I jumped right on it."* stated Miss Morton. *"I am looking forward to accomplishing many things with the Youth Advisory Board and aid in increasing youth safety in various areas including Teen Safe Driving, and Relationship Abuse."* The group will meet throughout the year to discuss youth violence issues and develop action plans for SAVE chapters across the nation.

This is the fourth year that Morton has been involved with her local SAVE chapter, and her second with the National Youth Advisory Board. During her freshman year of high school she served as Secretary of her SAVE Chapter and during her sophomore year and into her senior year she is serving as President. These positions have taught her tremendous leadership and teambuilding skills that without SAVE she would not have learned. "For the 2012-2013 school year, the goals for the Highland School of Technology SAVE Chapter, is to reduce youth violence in our area." stated Morton. "We will also continue our partnership with the Allstate Foundation to promote our Teen Safe Driving Campaign."

In addition to SAVE, Morton is involved in the community outside of school; with her church group where she helps build the children's faith by leading in worship and Vacation Bible School. Along with working with her church, she is involved with the local United Way Youth Council. The Council helps build community relationships through team building exercises, fundraisers, and assisting with the local under-privileged families.

Members of the YAB developed 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 created 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 200,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide.

**Back to School Safety Tips:** <http://nationalsave.org/main/augusttheme.php>

**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.

<http://www.nationalsave.org/main/YAB12-13.php>

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