

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Carleen Wray, Executive Director
E-mail: cwray@nationalsave.org
Phone: 919-661-7800



Allison Hatcher, Mississippi Allstate Foundation Manager
E-mail: Allison.Hatcher@allstate.com
Phone: 615-874-7629

Students Against Violence Everywhere Receives \$43,000 Grant from The Allstate Foundation to Promote Teen Safe Driving in Mississippi

December 3, 2012 — The Allstate Foundation presented a \$43,000 grant to Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) to assist SAVE chapters in Mississippi in their efforts to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. This grant from The Allstate Foundation will support the SAVE program in schools and community agencies. 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:

Biloxi High School, Biloxi – In October, Red Ribbon Week was observed along with America's Safe School Week. One day was devoted to promoting no texting while driving. Anti-bullying will be the focus in the Spring during National Youth Violence Prevention Week. Events focusing on safe driving and responsible behavior are being coordinated with prom. The SAVE advisor at Biloxi High School is Officer Daisy Watson.

Provine High School, Jackson - The SAVE Chapter at Provine High School had their X the TXT safe driving pledge event, sponsored by SAVE and the Steven James Allstate agency, on August 24, 2012. Participants each signed a pledge to not text or talk on their cell phones while driving. During America's Safe School/Red Ribbon Week in October, the chapter held a different activity each day. These activities included morning PA announcements, the distribution of "Break the Silence Stop the Violence" badges and "Elect to be Drug Free" ribbons and a Safe and Drug-Free assembly. This Chapter is advised by Mr. Levi Williams.

Forest Hill High School, Jackson - Forest Hill High School will have their teen safe driving event in Spring 2013. An Allstate agent and local law enforcement will be invited to participate. Mr. Jonathan Anderson is the SAVE Chapter Advisor.

Callaway High School, Jackson - Callaway High School will continue its efforts in promoting school and driving safety this year. Pep rallies, Homecoming and Fight-Free Weeks took place in the fall and X the TXT event with speakers and obstacle driving stimulators are being planned for the Spring. The SAVE Chapter advisor is Becky Cornelius.

Columbia High School, Columbia - Columbia High School is a new grant participant this year and has many events planned. Speakers from Highway Patrol will be highlighted at assemblies and health classes will participate in 'Dangerous Decisions' which addresses the importance of making wise choices. During National Youth Traffic Safety month in May, the chapter plans to have a texting awareness event as well a PSA campaign. The advisor for this SAVE Chapter is Shelia Burbridge.

Port Gibson High School, Port Gibson - Port Gibson High School is planning many activities during National Youth Violence Prevention Week in March. Themes during the week include Promoting Respect and Tolerance, Managing Anger, Conflict Resolution, Safety and Unite in Action. Also being planned is the creation of a video, posters, and brochures to promote safe teen driving in May. This new SAVE Chapter is advised by Arzell McCoy.

Saltillo High School, Saltillo - Saltillo High School is planning a week of safe driving activities in March, including announcements and a poster campaign, culminating with an X the TXT event. Other events in 2013 will include safety awareness surrounding prom and graduation, inviting local Allstate agents to speak to students of safe driving practices, and guest speakers from Kansas City Southern Railroad to discuss railroad safety. Lee Buse is the Chapter advisor.

Amanda Elzy High School, Greenwood - Amanda Elzy High School has a new SAVE Chapter this school year. They plan to have a poster contest and assembly with a speaker from the Mississippi Highway Patrol to discuss safe driving with students. A campaign to promote safe prom and graduation awareness will take place in the spring. The SAVE/SADD Advisor at Amanda Elzy High is Elizabeth Walker.

Hancock High School, Kiln - Hancock High School's SAVE/SADD Club will participate in National Youth Violence Prevention Week and National Youth Traffic Safety Month in 2013. Activities will include assemblies and a safe prom pledge. The SAVE Chapter advisor is Tara Northrop.

Ocean Springs High School, Ocean Springs - Ocean Springs High School's SAVE Chapter will participate in National Youth Violence Prevention Week with daily announcements, posters, and an anti-bullying assembly. Teen Safe Driving events in the Spring will include seat belt checks, radar tests testing speeds of students driving onto school grounds, safe driving announcements, and a special prom remembrance of victims of violence. Carolyn Boyd is the SAVE Chapter advisor.

Noxubee County High School, Macon – This SAVE Chapter plans to have various speakers address students on topics of school violence and safe driving. Prom and graduation safety will be promoted in a school-produced PSA. A Safety Fair will also be held and will include seat belt checks and impaired goggle driving activities. Laphilbia Smith is the SAVE Chapter advisor.

South Pike High School, Magnolia - South Pike's SAVE Chapter will work with the school's Teens Against Chemical Abuse Club and the Pike County Sheriff's Department to prepare trainings and presentations about teen violence in America. During National Youth Traffic Safety month in May, there will be Safe Prom pledge, assemblies and presentations promoting teen safe driving. The SAVE Advisor at South Pike High School is Tyrone Varnado.

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 a recent 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 Jan Epstein, Corporate Relations Manager of The Allstate Foundation. "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."

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. 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.

###