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## STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE (SAVE) AND ALLSTATE FOUNDATION FOSTER TEEN SAFE DRIVING IN CALIFORNIA

### ***Paso Robles High School Participating***

**RALEIGH, N.C., (September 29, 2010)** —Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) is receiving a \$100,000 grant from The Allstate Foundation to assist SAVE chapters in California to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. The grant will support SAVE programming in schools and community agencies, specifically teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted throughout the year.

SAVE will utilize Allstate's nationally successful X The TXT events to increase awareness among teens of the risks involved with cell phone use and teen driving. Key times for these student awareness campaigns include back-to-school periods, holidays, Teen Safe Driving Month in May, prom season, and graduation.

**Paso Robles High School** will kick off the year with a SAVE informational table at Back to School Night in early September. During America's Safe Schools Week in October, articles and tips will be published in the school newspaper and promotional items such as bookmarks and key chains will be distributed to increase awareness. An assembly during National Youth Violence Prevention Week in March is being planned with REVOLUTION SPEAK which focuses on diversity and acceptance. Anger Management and Conflict Resolution training workshops are also being planned for the spring. In May, a Teen Safe Driving Rally will team up with Friday Night Live to focus on underage drinking.

With support from Allstate exclusive agents and volunteers, SAVE will demonstrate its chapter leadership in schools and communities by ensuring that students are encouraged to participate and engage in these educational activities enhancing teen safe driving and youth safety. There are 89 SAVE Chapters throughout California.

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 Bill Mellander, Allstate Corporate Relations Manager in California. "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."

Previous assistance from The Allstate Foundation has benefited SAVE schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Nevada, Michigan, Minnesota, Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, Wisconsin, California, Colorado, and Ohio.

**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.

**About The Allstate Foundation:**

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. The Allstate Foundation partners with non-profit organizations on community initiatives that promote "safe and vital communities," "tolerance, inclusion, and diversity" and "economic empowerment." Teen driving and empowering victims of domestic violence have been major initiatives for the Foundation since 2005. For more information visit [www.ProtectTeenDrivers.com](http://www.ProtectTeenDrivers.com).

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