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

### ***Cypress High School in Santa Cruz Participating***

**RALEIGH, NC, (February 2, 2011)** —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.

The new SAVE Chapter at Cypress High School in Santa Cruz will focus on safe driving awareness for teen drivers as well as students of pre-driving age. The Chapter also plans to address other school safety topics such as bullying, appropriate use of social networks, and tolerance.

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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