

Ira High SAVE to host summit

Ira School's SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) chapter will host a summit March 25 where area high schools may come to learn more about the organization as well as how to organize a chapter at their school. The deadline for schools to enter is Friday.

Sponsor Katrina Reynolds said they want to make this event as big as possible so other schools will start their own SAVE chapter. "We feel very strongly about this program because it has done so much for our school and just want to help other schools get a program started."

Carleen Wray, executive director of the National SAVE organization, will be the keynote speaker.

The Allstate Foundation presented a grant to Ira High School's SAVE chapter that will allow members to increase youth safety lessons and promote teen safe driving. Teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted during key times of the year including holidays, Teen Safe Driving Month (May), prom, graduation and back to school.

Ira's SAVE group has conducted several teen safe driving activities including a play based on the consequences of drinking and driving, as well as bullying. They secured a guest speaker to discuss making safe driving decisions and what cyber-bullying leads to.

MEETING OF MINDS — Ira High School SAVE Chapter members met recently in the school library to formulate plans for a SAVE Summit slated in March. SAVE members are Mariana Ornelas, Dillan Cullifer, Rilee Dunn, Krystin Baker, Tyler Goodwin, Katrina Reynolds, J.P. Wilson, Brady Ledbetter, Lance Morris, Laramie Gilbert, Baily Nickerson, Amber Baker, Alicia Rosas, Priscilla DeLuna and Blair McCowen. Adviser Katrina Reynolds. (SDN Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)



The chapter has been invited to help with the local Shattered Dreams program at an area school to show students the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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.

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, Virginia, Washington, South Dakota and Ohio.

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, or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

