

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### Teen Safe Driving Activities planned at High Schools in West Central US

RALEIGH, NC (April 25, 2011) — Thanks to the Allstate Foundation, Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Inc. presented grants to the following high schools:

#### **Marionville High School FCCLA - Marionville, MO**

Marionville High School FCCLA has experienced the tragedy of losing students to traffic accidents. Their goal is to educate students, staff, parents and community about ways to reduce these tragedies and violence in their school district. Their plans this spring include a pledge campaign and an assembly with a speaker from the Missouri Department of Transportation to discuss Distracted Teen Driving and Drunk Driving.

#### **Sullivan Senior High - Sullivan, MO**

The Sullivan Sr. High School SAVE Chapter would like to reduce the number of students texting and driving by holding a Drive Safe Campaign. Students will make posters, distribute flyers, make morning announcements with statistics and hold a student body assembly.

#### **Brunswick FCCLA - Brunswick, MO**

Brunswick FCCLA plans to educate their teens about the dangers of driving while drinking, texting, and while being distracted or drowsy. The importance of wearing seatbelts, traffic safety while walking, and safe bicycle riding will be emphasized.

#### **Gering High School Student Council - Gering, NE**

Gering High School plans to increase awareness of the dangers of texting and drinking while driving by promoting teen safe driving during the spring of 2011.

#### **Maywood High School - Maywood, NE**

Maywood High School plans to do seat belt and cell phone checks as students leave the school parking lot. They hope to do this activity several times a month to help get students in the habit of wearing their seat belts and not using their cell phone while driving.

#### **West Central Valley High School - Stuart, IA**

The West Central Valley High School will focus on reducing bullying and harassment for students K-12 and teen safe driving for students in high school. Plans include promoting these causes with posters and brochures.

#### **Woden-Crystal Lake-Titonka High School - Crystal Lake, IA**

The new SAVE Chapter at Woden-Crystal Lake-Titonka High School intends to promote teen

safe driving at Prom and After-Prom events in April 2011. An assembly will be held and safe driving materials will be distributed during summer sports activities. The Chapter will also send information to parents and will provide program updates on their school website.

**Burrton High School FCCLA - Burrton, KS**

The new SAVE Chapter at Burrton High School hopes to raise awareness of safe teen driving through informational posters and school announcements. On May 11, 2011, Burrton Police Chief Becker will address all high school students on driving safety, seat belt use, texting while driving, and drinking and driving.

**Central Heights USD 288 - Richmond, KS**

The SAVE Chapter at Central Heights USD will be promoting safe driving through their driver's education program with the use of intoxication goggles. SAVE will be run alongside their SADD program year-round.

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 **Melanie Merrion, Allstate Senior Corporate Relations Manager**. “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 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 (NYSE: ALL). Allstate and The Allstate Foundation sponsor community initiatives to promote safe and vital communities; tolerance, inclusion, and diversity; and economic empowerment. The Allstate Foundation believes in the financial potential of every individual and in helping America's families achieve their American dream.

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