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WASHINGTON-METRO TEENS **LAUDED FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST** **UNDERAGE DRINKING**

LOCAL ALCOHOL-EDUCATION GROUP RECOGNIZES AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR DOING “THE RIGHT THING”

Washington, D.C., April 22 – Calling it recognition of high school students “doing the right thing,” a local alcohol-education group today announced that four Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups will be presented with honors for their efforts in fighting underage drinking.

The nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) announced that winners of its 16th-annual GEICO Student Awards this year include:

- **H.D. Woodson Sr. High School’s SADD Club**, District of Columbia
- **James Madison High School’s SADD Club**, Fairfax, County, Virginia
- **Phoenix @ Emory Grove**, Montgomery County, Maryland
- **Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s SADD Club**, Prince George’s Co., MD

(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions.)

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 16th year, are annually presented by WRAP to Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The popular awards – judged by members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ (COG) Drug Prevention and Education Committee in tandem with WRAP – are presented to just one student group in each of the Greater Washington counties and or cities served by WRAP. (Entries came from the District of Columbia, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties).

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Student groups are judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both the student body and community in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. Activities of the winning groups have included a variety of creative initiatives including: developing “contracts” between students and parents regarding the refraining from alcohol and drug use; organizing alcohol-free teen social events and forums; establishing mentoring relationships between high school and intermediate and elementary school students; and participating on town governing bodies.

The four winning student groups will each receive both a plaque as well as \$ 500 each from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track. In addition, the four Washington-metropolitan area schools receiving Honorable Mention honors as part of this year’s GEICO Student Awards (**Anacostia Senior High School’s SADD Club**, Washington, DC; **South Lakes High School’s Army JROTC**, Fairfax County, Virginia; **Watkins Mill High School’s Best Buddies**, Montgomery County , Maryland; and **High Point High School’s SADD Club**, Prince George’s County, Maryland) will also each be receiving both award certificates as well as \$ 100 as a means of sustaining individual student clubs’ future activities in combating both drunk driving and underage drinking.

“In 2006, nearly a third (31%) all teen drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes had been drinking,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. ***“This year’s student group winners represent the front line in the fight against underage drinking in Greater Washington and we commend their efforts in this far from won battle.”***

Founded in 1982, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area’s alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization’s popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, *SoberRide*. For more information, visit WRAP’s web site at **www.wrap.org** .