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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 15, 2011**

# 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 15** – Calling it a recognition of high school students “doing the right thing,” a local alcohol-education group today awarded three Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups with honors for their efforts in fighting underage drinking.

At this morning’s awards ceremony at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Washington, D.C., the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) presented its 19<sup>th</sup>-annual GEICO Student Awards to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s SADD Club**, Prince George’s County, MD
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Battlefield High School’s DECA Chapter**, Prince William County, VA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Gar- Field High School’s SADD Club**, Prince William County, VA
- Honorable Mention: **Fairfax High School’s SADD Club**, Fairfax County, VA
- Honorable Mention: **James Madison High School’s SADD Club**, Fairfax County, VA

*(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions; DECA: Distributive Education Clubs of America)*

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 19<sup>th</sup> year, were presented by WRAP to Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The popular awards were judged by a panel of area substance abuse prevention professionals including representatives from traffic safety organizations and prevention coalitions.

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4.15.11 wrap release;  
page two

Student groups were 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 included a variety of creative initiatives including: developing “contracts” between students and parents regarding the refraining from alcohol and drug use; organizing candle vigils to honor the lives of those lost during alcohol-related crashes, organizing alcohol-free teen social events, forums; establishing mentoring relationships between high school and intermediate and elementary school students; and participating on town governing bodies.

At a packed awards ceremony this afternoon at Maggiano’s Little Italy, over 100 high school students gathered and applauded while the three winning student groups received both plaques and monetary awards of up to \$ 1,000 each from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track.

ABC 7 reporter John Gonzalez served as the day’s Master of Ceremonies while speakers included: local inspirational speaker, Dan McCoy; and award sponsor Janice Minshall, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications with GEICO.

***“In 2009, nearly one-third of all teen drivers killed in this country’s traffic crashes had been drinking,”*** said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. ***“Today’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](http://www.wrap.org) .

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