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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 27 – 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 20<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: **Gar-Field High School’s** SADD Club, Prince William County, VA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **DeMatha Catholic High School’s** SADD\* Club, Prince George’s County, MD;
- Honorable Mention: Briar Woods High School’s PEER Club, Loudoun County, VA;
- Honorable Mention: Mount Vernon High School’s DECA Chapter, Fairfax County, VA;
- Honorable Mention: West Springfield High School’s SADD Club, Fairfax County, VA

*(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions; DECA: Distributive Education Clubs of America; DeMatha Catholic’s SADD: Stags Against Destructive Decisions; PEER: Positive Experiences in Education Relationships)*

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 20<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.

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 during prom season; 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 150 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 News Anchor Alison Starling served as the day's Master of Ceremonies while speakers included former Federal Highway Associate Administrator Joseph Toole, Ms. D.C. United States 2012 Tina Montgomery and award sponsor Janice Minshall, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications with GEICO, amongst others.

***"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."***

Commemorating its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2012, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. 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.

For more information, visit WRAP's web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

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