

CONTACT: Kurt Gregory Erickson
President

PHONE: W. 703 / 893-0461
MOBILE. 703 / 625-2303

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2013

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 19 – Calling it 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 21st -annual GEICO Student Awards to:

- 1st Place: **Eleanor Roosevelt High School**, SADD Club, Prince George’s County, MD;
- 2nd Place: **Academy of the Holy Cross**, SADD Club, Montgomery County, MD;
- 3rd Place: **West Potomac High School**, SGA, Fairfax County, VA;

(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions; SGA: Student Government Association)

In addition, WRAP bestowed Honorable Mention honors to the following Greater Washington area high school student groups: Fairfax High School, Leadership/Student Government Association, Fairfax County, VA; Gar-Field Senior High School, SADD Club, Prince William County, VA; James Madison High School, SADD Club, Fairfax County, VA; Wards 3 & 4 D.C. Prevention Center, Youth Prevention Leadership Corps, District of Columbia; West Springfield High School, SADD Club, Fairfax County, VA; and Yorktown High School, SADD Club, Arlington County, VA

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 21st 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 local 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:

signing “pledges” to refrain from alcohol and drug use during prom season; active use of social media to promote healthy lifestyles; organizing alcohol-free teen social events; and reenactments demonstrating the devastating effects of alcohol.

At a packed awards ceremony this morning 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. Each student group earning Honorable Mention honors were presented with both a certificate and a \$ 100 award to sustain their “lifesaving work.”

Today’s speakers included White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director for Policy Jacqueline Hackett and award sponsor Janice Minshall, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications with GEICO, amongst others.

“According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administrative figures, 20-percent of all teen drivers involved in fatal crashes in the U.S. in 2011 had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or higher,” 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.

#