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GREATER WASHINGTON STUDENT GROUPS HONORED FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING

WRAP & GEICO TEAM-UP IN 24th-ANNUAL EFFORT TO LAUD LOCAL, LIFESAVING TEENS

Washington, D.C., May 25 – Five Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups are scheduled to be honored this spring for their efforts in fighting underage drinking.

In a 24th-annual effort, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) has again teamed-up with GEICO to bestow this year's GEICO Student Awards to:

- **Eleanor Roosevelt High School**, SADD Club, Greenbelt, Maryland;
- **Gar-Field Senior High School**, SADD Club, Woodbridge, Virginia;
- **Heritage High School**, Student Council Association, Leesburg, Virginia
- **James Madison High School**, SADD Club, Vienna, Virginia;
- and the **Unified Prevention Coalition Youth Council**, Fairfax County, Virginia.

(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions)

The GEICO Student Awards are annually presented by WRAP to Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers.

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 include 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.

Each of this year's winning high school student groups will receive both plaques and monetary awards of \$1,000 each from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track. Such 2016 honors will be presented via individual, in-school ceremonies this spring. In addition, WRAP, again in partnership with GEICO, announced that, next fall, it will be transitioning its Greater Washington high school awards competition to a regional student summit.

“According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administrative figures, nearly a quarter (24%) of all teen drivers involved in fatal crashes in the U.S. in 2013 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 nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically 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.

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