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

At this morning’s awards ceremony at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) presented its 15th-annual GEICO Student Awards to:

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

(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions.)

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 15th 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 – judged by members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ (COG) Drug Prevention and Education Committee in tandem with WRAP – were 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).

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 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.

In addition to attending a packed awards ceremony this afternoon at the Verizon Center’s Acela Club, nearly 150 high school students gathered and applauded while the six winning student groups received \$ 500 each from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track. In addition and noting that 2007 marks both WRAP’s 25th anniversary as well as the 15th anniversary of today’s student awards, sponsor GEICO also presented \$ 100 checks to each school entering this year’s competition as a means of sustaining individual student clubs’ future activities in combating both drunk driving and underage drinking.

Popular MIX 107.3 FM personality Chilli Amar served as the day’s Master of Ceremonies while speakers included Metropolitan Police Department Assistant Chief Alton Bigelow and award sponsor Janice Minshall with GEICO.

“In 2005, more than a quarter 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 .

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