

Connect



SPRINGTIME IS PROM TIME!

You're going to remember your prom for the rest of your life. It can be a time of laughter, dancing, fun and celebration, but it can also be a time that fosters regrets. Insurance companies report that more than one-third of the year's alcohol related teen driving fatalities occur around prom and graduation time. Even teens who are considered to be responsible, good drivers face additional dangers and pressures during prom and graduation season. While we can't protect our



teens from all the dangers they face on and off the road, there are measures that parents and other caring adults can take to minimize the risks. It is important to have conversations about issues such as distracted driving, alcohol use and the number of passengers in the car, as these factors can have detrimental effects on teen safety. In conjunction with talking to their teens, parents must also set clear rules and consequences.

Not only are automobile crashes the leading cause of death among teens, alcohol use is linked with other risky and potentially destructive behaviors such as physical and emotional violence, sexual mistakes or misjudgments, alcohol overdose and unintentional injuries such as drownings and falls. It takes only one such incident to turn what should be an event that is remembered forever as a celebration into a tragedy. To make sure that prom is celebrated as an alcohol and substance free event requires the combined efforts of schools, parents, law-enforcement officials, other members of the local community **and** the students.

Your plans for prom may already be underway, but there is still time to add activities and events to help create a safe and fun celebration. The SADD Prom Safety Pledge can be accessed by clicking the "Safe Prom and Graduation" link under April Calendar (*right*). **Think About It...Prom and Graduation Season**, a tool kit developed by SADD and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is a great prom safety resource. You can download the materials at <http://www.sadd.org/campaign/taiprompdf.htm>.

Have a great prom that is fun, happy and safe. Provide guidance to your peers as needed, and make beautiful memories you'll think back on with delight!



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Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

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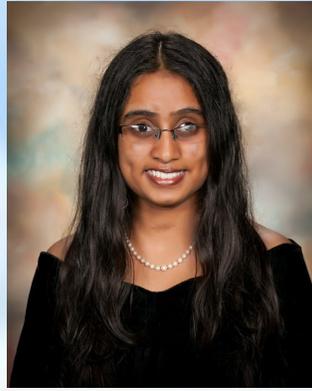
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SADD MEMBERS SPEAK OUT FOR YOUTH



Katie Morley



Trusha Patel

Southwest High School SADD Club members **Trusha Patel** and **Katie Morley** are members of the Jacksonville Youth Council. Katie serves as the council's secretary. The primary purpose of the Youth Council is to collaborate with the Jacksonville City Council on matters affecting teenagers in the Jacksonville-Onslow County area, including anti-bullying initiatives, substance abuse issues and developing recreational activities for youth.

Southwest SADD advisor **Diane Dail** explained, "The Youth Council bridges the generation gap as it brings attention to issues that might go unnoticed by the City Council. It allows teens from across the county to meet each other and gives them an appreciation for the city and its government. It is an experience that gives them the tools to apply leadership skills and to see what opportunities there are in the city and county for people their own age."

"The Youth Council members participate in community outreach events such as Relay for Life and Christmas Cheer, and they volunteer with the Onslow County Soup Kitchen. They are involved with a grant program that helps provide funds for youth projects. They also help with summer programs for area high school students, such as filmmaking, science and leadership.

Ms. Dail said, We are very proud of Katie and Trusha and the difference they are making for the youth of Jacksonville and Onslow County!"

NC SADD is also proud of these young ladies. Go Katie and Trusha! **Go Stallions!**



SADD+MADD=GETTING THE JOB DONE!

Mothers Against Drunk Driving has developed a new underage drinking prevention program,



Power of You(th), and they are offering it as a complement to your chapter projects. Although the program generally involves a presentation and booklet dissemination, it is flexible and can be tailored to fit the needs of your chapter. This program is 100% free, and MADD will work with you to ensure you have the knowledge, resources and skills to be successful. Lori Brown, MADD state program specialist, shared this about the program: "Power of You(th) is an effective program that will catalyze our mission of empowering young people to successfully confront the risks and pressures that challenge them in their daily lives. I hope the SADD chapters will take advantage of this partnership, so together, we can create a future of no more victims. Not only does this program empower students not to drink before the age of 21, it also educates youth on how to resist peer pressure, drive safe, get help from adults and make good decisions for the future."

MADD will provide working materials for your chapter and will speak to your school or group.

To get involved with Power of You(th) or to have a MADD representative come to your school, contact Lori Brown at (919) 787-6599 ext. 3752 or lori.brown@madd.org.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR WINS WRAL TV AWARD-

West Johnston High School senior **Christion "Tre"**

Frederick, 2014-15

SADD Student of the Year, was recently featured by WRAL TV on he station's Extra Effort Award segment. The award was presented by anchor, producer and reporter Tom Suiter.

Throughout the school year, WRAL-TV and Tom Suiter recognize one student-athlete each week



Tre Frederick

who excels not only on the playing field but also in the classroom and in the community. Tre was acknowledged for his academic achievement, extracurricular and sports involvement, community involvement and his helpfulness to staff and students. Tre's community involvement was actually too extensive for everything to be included in the time allotted for the segment! Click [here](#) to see Tre's Extra Effort Award segment. Congratulations Tre. NC SADD is proud of you. **Go Wildcats!**



MRS. NORTH CAROLINA IS ON OUR SIDE

Paige Carter, National Mrs. North Carolina, is excited about working with our chapters to help prevent un-



Paige Carter
National Mrs. North Carolina

derage alcohol and other drug use. Although she works with the [Safe Sober Prom Night Foundation](#), Paige wants to be involved in helping teens make good decisions all year long. Her passion to spread awareness about alcohol and drug use stems from the 2006 loss of a very close friend who died at the

age of 15 in a drug and alcohol related vehicle crash. Paige said, "Making safe and smart choices in life can make an impact on every teen, their family and friends."

Paige's platform is called "Crown VIP," and she wants to continue working with schools to spread awareness of the dangers of substance abuse. She also plans to direct a Prom Fashion Show fundraiser using models from local schools. Funds raised will be used to support area SADD chapters. During the fashion show, Paige will share the story and passion behind the Crown VIP platform, and make sure students sign Safe Sober pledge cards.

Paige graduated from Surry Central High School in Dobson, NC. **Go Golden Eagles!** She now lives in Booneville in Yadkin County.

We look forward to working with Mrs. North Carolina. If you would like to have her help out with your assemblies or other prevention projects, please contact her at 336-283-3879 or paigecarter8710@gmail.com.



STATE FARM IS RAINING DOLLARS!

Last month's **Connect** reported on the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant program. State Farm has notified us that their Youth Advisory Board (YAB) service learning grant period is open through May 1, 2015. The grants range from \$25,000 - \$100,000 and are designed to

State Farm



create sustainable change in local communities across the United States. Public K-12, charter, higher education institutions and non-profit organizations are eligible if they can demonstrate how student achievement within the public K-12 curriculum will be impacted. All applicants must have a youth contact and adult administrator, as the programs must be youth driven and youth led.

Each grant request must fall under one of these issue areas, chosen by the board:

- Community Safety and Justice
- Environmental Responsibility
- Economic Inclusion and Financial Literacy
- Access to Higher Education
- Health and Wellness
- Arts and Culture

As of August 2014, eight years after the initial launch of the YAB, the Board has awarded more than \$31.4 million in grants to organizations in the U.S. and Canada and impacted approximately 18.1 million lives.

If you want to know some of the projects the YAB has funded, click on the following link:

<http://www.statefarmyab.com/projects/>.



REMINDER

Student Advisory Board applications are due April 30. Click [SAB App](#) to access the application.

THE APRIL CALENDAR

Although this issue of **Connect** expounded on prom safety, please note that April is also the month for focusing on violence prevention and youth service.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER YOUR CHAPTER

Registering your chapter is one of the most important things you'll do this school year. Many of our chapters are not registered with SADD National. In order to know how many chapters exist, we must have a registration update each year. If you really can't find the time to register your chapter, and all your information is still the same, send an email to the state coordinator at hsoutherland@ncsadd.org, and notification will be forwarded to the national office.

SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE COMING IN MAY

The NC Division of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Branch is holding a Suicide Prevention Summit Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at NC State University's McKimmon Center in Raleigh. The theme of the Summit is "Together We Can Prevent Suicide." The Summit is sponsored by the NC Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center and the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. The Summit will have a track for youth leaders. If you have students that you believe will implement what they learn into their peer prevention efforts, please contact the state coordinator, Harriett Southerland at (919)-807-4400 or hsoutherland@ncsadd.org.

For more information about the summit, contact Margaret Vaughn at (919) 707-5427 or margaret.vaughn@dhhs.nc.gov.

HAPPY SPRING!

