



**HOLMES COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION AND HOLMES COUNTY SADD CHAPTER
WIN NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR PROMOTING YOUTH SAFE DRIVING**

The Allstate Foundation and National Organizations for Youth Safety

Award \$1,000 to Holmes County SADD

Millersburg, Ohio--Each year in the U.S., car crashes take the lives of more than 4000 young people. To raise awareness of this critical issue, National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) teamed up with The Allstate Foundation to award \$1,000 to Holmes County SADD for excellence in bringing safe teen driving to the Holmes County area.

Holmes County SADD joins 49 other youth organizations and communities across the nation, sharing \$50,000 in grant funding. SADD earned their award for their innovative campaign promoting safe teen driving. The SADD members of Hiland High School and West Holmes High School encouraged elementary students to write letters to junior and senior high school students, reminding them to be make responsible choices while driving – especially during prom and graduation. Upperclassmen from both high schools enjoyed reading the letters and were touched by the caring messages about making positive choices. The notes reminded the teens that younger students look up to them as role models. Letters addressed responsible driving including not texting or using the cell phone, changing the radio or CD player, and drinking. The letter writing campaign will become an annual event during prom and graduation. The grant will be used to sponsor SADD future activities.

“The Allstate Foundation is committed to promoting smart teen driving and our hope is that programs such as BHS SADD will engage teens in the discussion and reinforce the importance of responsible driving,” said Susan Duchak, senior manager, The Allstate Foundation Teen Driving Program.

“National Organizations for Youth Safety is honored to work with the Allstate Foundation. We appreciate the leadership the Allstate Foundation has shown in encouraging and rewarding youth leaders who create National Youth Safety Month projects in their communities,” said Sandy Spavone, executive director, NOYS.