



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Anoka High School Group Receives National Accolade**

**Marlborough, Mass.** – The Anoka High School SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter in Anoka, Minnesota, has been chosen as the third-place winner of the 2009 SADD National Chapter of the Year award. This SADD chapter has effectively played a leading role in empowering youth to make good decisions in their lives.

“As one of the most active SADD chapters in the country, this group highly deserves this special recognition,” SADD Executive Director Penny Wells said. “Year after year, youth from Anoka High School have carried out SADD’s mission, empowering their peers to make safe, healthy decisions. They have a passion to play a leading role in effective, evidence-based prevention programming and have clearly set an example for SADD chapters across the country.”

Anoka High School SADD students have developed an award-winning program that includes people from the school, community, and state. Most recently, the chapter was the grand-prize winner of the national Act Out Loud: Raising Voices for Safe Teen Driving Contest with its “Get the 411 on Teen Driving! Stay Connected! Save Teen Lives” project. Anoka SADD has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a second-place winner in a national competition to develop a new ad campaign promoting teen safety awareness. The focus of Anoka High School SADD has not been on increasing membership, but instead about collaboration with clubs, sports teams, and individuals within the school and community, as well as business and educational affiliations throughout the state. In one example of collaboration, the chapter wrote and produced a script, which was then acted out by the school’s football team, to

educate teens about the new teen driving laws passed in Minnesota. The PSA was aired on public access television and reached 20,000 people in the community.

“We are very proud to receive this award. Anoka High School SADD students work very hard at these campaigns and projects because they truly believe in what they are saying and doing,” said SADD Advisor Patricia Halsey. “It’s an honor to see their boundless energy and commitment to SADD in both the school and the community.”

Anoka High School SADD will be formally honored at an awards banquet at the SADD National Conference in Washington, D.C., this July. The chapter will receive a \$100 cash prize. Two additional SADD chapters will also be recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the past year. Northwestern High School in Springfield, Ohio, was chosen as the first-place winner and will receive a \$500 cash prize. South Lafourche High School in Galliano, Louisiana, placed second and will receive \$250.

SADD, the nation’s leading peer-to-peer youth education, prevention, and activism organization, is committed to empowering young people to lead initiatives in their schools and communities. Founded in 1981, today SADD has thousands of chapters in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. SADD highlights prevention of many destructive behaviors and attitudes that are harmful to young people, including underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, and teen violence and suicide. More information about SADD can be found at **sadd.org**.

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