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SADD ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 NATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

*Students Against Destructive Decisions Chooses Massachusetts
Teenager to Represent Organization Nationally*

Marlborough, Mass. – SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), the national school-based, peer-to-peer prevention, education, and activism organization, today announced that Deanna Boucher of Lowell, Massachusetts, has been named 2011-2012 SADD National Student of the Year. Boucher will be the national student spokesperson for the organization, which has nearly 10,000 chapters and hundreds of thousands of active participants in schools nationwide.

“I’m excited about this opportunity to make a difference and help influence teens across the nation to make better life choices,” Boucher said. “I believe in and am passionate about SADD’s mission, and I hope to accomplish as much as possible within the next year. I hope to help SADD better understand some of the many difficult issues I see youth facing today.”

A senior at the Academy of Notre Dame, Boucher has been an active SADD student since she was a freshman. She has been both secretary and co-president of her local chapter, served on the Massachusetts SADD Student Advisory Board (SAB), and served as a member of the 2010-2011 SADD National Student Leadership Council.

“Hard-working and committed, Deanna will be an exceptional spokesperson for SADD, working tirelessly to ensure that teens are fully prepared to make good choices in a world full of challenges,” said Penny Wells, president and executive director of SADD. “Being chosen SADD National Student of the Year is a great honor and a natural progression for her. We are confident she will thrive as a leader, an educator, and an important voice and advocate for teens nationwide.”

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Student of the Year responsibilities include publicly addressing issues affecting teens, serving a one-year term on the SADD National Board of Directors, and leading nine other extraordinary youth leaders who will comprise the SADD National Student Leadership Council (SLC). The SLC advises the SADD National Board of Directors on policies and programs, plans and implements the annual SADD national conference, and serves as a national and regional student representation network. Boucher will begin her term as the SADD National Student of the Year during SADD's annual conference in Chicago, Illinois, in late June.

Boucher has achieved academic success in many subjects and has been honored with Academic Excellence awards in multiple curricula. She has been instrumental in planning many of her SADD chapter's activities, such as Grim Reaper Day, Rachel's Challenge, and the @15 Exchange. She is an avid dancer, serving as co-captain and student assistant of the Dance Expressions Ensemble. Boucher is also a volunteer for St. Patrick's Parish Youth Choir.

"Being selected as the SADD National Student of the Year is a great accomplishment, one that is well deserved and brings great pride to our state and local organizations that have worked so hard to educate teens about responsible decision-making," said Julie Nussbaum, director of prevention and Massachusetts SADD State Coordinator. "Deanna has been an exceptional SADD leader in Massachusetts, working tirelessly to ensure that teens are aware of the perils of underage drinking and other drug use."

A quiet, but strong leader during her time on the Massachusetts SADD Student Advisory Board, Boucher leads by example, following through on commitments and mobilizing others to help out. SADD was recently a part of the Best Buy's @15 Exchange which allows teens to direct Best Buy's charitable donations through online activities and voting. Boucher spearheaded this effort locally, statewide, and nationally and helped SADD break a record in receiving the highest percent of votes per round, winning \$150,000 to support programs and services.

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About SADD

SADD, the nation's leading youth-based peer-to-peer 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, substance abuse, risky and impaired driving, and teen violence and suicide. To become a Friend of SADD or for more information, visit sadd.org, parentteenmatters.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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