

LOUISBURG COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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LOUISBURG COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERS GATHER IN CHICAGO TO GAIN NEW SKILLS IN PREVENTION EDUCATION

Louisburg, NC – Leaders from the Louisburg College SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter joined other youth activists from across the country on June 26-29 to learn the latest in prevention education and to celebrate SADD's 30th anniversary of saving lives.

Nearly 550 SADD youth and adult leaders gathered at the SADD National Conference in Chicago, IL, to share best practices in educating their peers and promoting positive decision making. As part of the life-expanding educational experience, youth leaders from Louisburg College attended innovative workshops aimed at providing students with information about topics critical to youth health and safety, including underage



drinking, violence and suicide, driving safety, diversity, bullying, and advocacy. Participants learned from motivational activities and presentations aimed at exchanging new approaches and gathering ideas that they will now share with the Louisburg College community and develop into events for their SADD chapter's implementation over the course of the coming school year.

Photo: Project Impact was created by the LC team. Each pin (11,849 total) represents one person killed in an alcohol related traffic accident in 2009.

“SADD students from Louisburg College are dedicated to helping our peers make safe, positive decisions,” said Rashetta Bellamy, a Louisburg College student leader who attended the conference. “It was exciting to meet with other youth from across the country who share the same mission. We have learned a lot from each other, and we’re excited to put our new skills into action.”

The conference is held in a different city each year to afford young people a new cultural experience. This year students participated in a unique off-site program, “SADD in Chicago,” sponsored by Toyota. This program included a guided river boat tour in which students learned about the city’s history and architecture, and an

evening of dinner, fun, and activity on Chicago's famous Navy Pier. Other conference sponsors included DCH Auto Group, Global Road safety Foundation/Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-202, and the FDA/Center for Tobacco Products.

"Louisburg College is grateful for the funding we have received over the past two years to promote this new program on campus." said Fonda Porter, Louisburg College's director of counseling services and SADD advisor. "The ongoing support we've received from Project R.I.D.E. and Five County Mental Health Authority has helped to propel the Louisburg College SADD chapter forward and enabled our students to attend the National SADD Conference."

SADD, the nation's leading peer-to-peer youth-based education, prevention, and activism organization, is committed to empowering young people to lead initiatives in their schools and communities. Founded in 1981, 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, teen violence, and suicide. To become a Friend of SADD, or for more information visit www.sadd.org and www.parentteenmatters.org, or follow SADD on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Related by faith to The United Methodist Church, Louisburg College is committed to offering a supportive community in which young men and women mature intellectually, culturally, socially, and spiritually. As a two-year residential institution, we provide a bridge for students to make a successful transition from high school to senior colleges and universities.

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