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PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Kansas SADD student accepted for national leadership

TOPEKA, KS (APRIL 1, 2009) A member of Kansas Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) steps up to lead youth at the national level. Midnight Deeds-Rookstool, of Topeka, was selected as one of 21 students from across the country, by SADD National, for the SADD SPEAKs (Students for Policy, Education, Advocacy, and Knowledge) 2009 Program. This program is part of the 2009 SADD National Conference to be held in July in Washington, D.C.

Deeds-Rookstool, a senior at Highland Park High school, has been involved with SADD and the Kansas SADD Student Leadership Council, (SLC) for over three years. She currently serves as the chair for the statewide Council. Kansas SADD and Kansas SLC are programs of Kansas Family Partnership, Inc., a not –for-profit organization located in Topeka, Kan.

Deeds-Rookstool will attend pre-conference training for SADD SPEAKs 2009 prior to the beginning of the SADD National Conference, in July. SPEAKs delegates will spend three days participating in advocacy training and skill-building workshops. Working with other SPEAKs delegates Deeds-Rookstool will prepare and deliver a workshop for conference attendees. She will also help develop materials that will be used during legislative visits on the final day of the conference after the Capitol Hill press event. SPEAK's delegates will be an integral part of SADD's Capitol Hill press conference on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, and will help lead visits with legislative delegations for everyone attending the conference.

"We are extremely proud and excited that Midnight has been selected to participate in this national program," stated Maria Torrez Anderson, Kansas SADD State Coordinator. "This is a wonderful opportunity not only for Midnight, but she will be able to return to Kansas with new advocacy skills to train our Kansas SADD Chapter members. She will do an outstanding job representing our Kansas SADD students."

SADD SPEAKs, a program of SADD National, is working with several other youth prevention programs on a legislative advocacy effort to ensure that future federal traffic safety legislation includes a focus on traffic safety components for youth, including resources, programming, and financial support. Participants will go through a three day training prior to the Conference. They will then lead conference participants during the three day event in Washington, D.C., that provides training and skill building workshops for the students.

SADD's mission is to provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, impaired driving and other destructive decisions.