



May 9, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Sturgis High School Students Finish First in State for Efforts to Promote Safe Teen Driving**

*Three Rivers, Lakewood, Waterford Mott and Ontonagon high schools also recognized*

St. Joseph County's Sturgis High School took top honors statewide for the school's Strive For a Safer Drive (S4SD) distracted driving and seat belt safety campaign. The first place selection recognizes the outstanding efforts of Sturgis High School students in educating their classmates about safe teen driving.

S4SD, presented by Ford Driving Skills for Life and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, provides funding and resources to help teens talk to teens about safe driving with the goal of reducing traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers. The top schools are selected based on creativity, execution and compliance with the S4SD participation requirements.

Three Rivers High School, also from St. Joseph County, finished second. Lakewood High School of Barry County earned third place; Waterford Mott High School of Oakland County took fourth place; and Ontonagon Area High School of Ontonagon County finished in fifth place.

The top five campaigns will receive a cash prize ranging from \$500-\$1,500. Students from participating schools will attend a free hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors at the Ford Dearborn Development Center on Monday, May 16.

This school year, 44 Michigan high schools received \$1,000 to create a student-led, peer-to-peer traffic safety awareness campaign. Campaign topics included distracted driving, seat belts, underage drinking/impaired driving, speeding and winter driving. The students conducted activities between December and March before submitting a final report.

Previously, the program was limited to high schools in the top counties for teen driver traffic fatalities and serious injuries, but it was expanded this year to include all Michigan high schools.

This project is part of Michigan's Strategic Highway Safety Plan signed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2013.

###

**Contacts:** Kristin Allen, Office of Highway Safety Planning, 517-284-3045, [allenk14@michigan.gov](mailto:allenk14@michigan.gov)  
Nolan Katerberg, Ford Motor Company, 313-845-8740, [nkaterbe@ford.com](mailto:nkaterbe@ford.com)

