



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL L. PRINCE
CHAIR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Traverse City teen to receive student award
from Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission**

Mitchell Stachnik, a senior at Traverse City Central High School, will be recognized by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) during the group's annual awards presentation Wednesday at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. He will receive the GTSAC's student honor for his efforts in developing a safety awareness campaign on the dangers of drinking and driving.

The GTSAC recognizes organizations, programs and individuals for outstanding involvement in traffic safety. The awards ceremony is part of the 25th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Three long-term awards, six Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement awards and one student award are being presented.

The leading cause of death among teenagers is traffic crashes. As a member of Central High's student senate and Students Against Negative Decision Making, Mitchell was pivotal in creating and implementing a school wide educational awareness week on the dangers of drinking and driving. In the week leading up to the 2018 prom, Mitchell and classmates handed out wristbands with the word "sober" on them to students who pledged to stay sober and make good decisions during prom. No drunk driving incidents were reported during the 2018 prom season. Plans are in place to create a social media and video campaign for future years.

Mitchell, who was also captain of Central High's football team, was nominated for the award by Michigan State Police (MSP) Tpr. David Pritchard.

The GTSAC was formed in 2002 to serve as the state's forum for identifying key traffic safety challenges and developing and implementing plans to address those issues. The commission includes representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the MSP and departments of: Education, Health and Human Services and State, as well as the Office of the Governor, Aging and Adult Services Agency and Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. There are also three representatives from local government appointed by the governor.

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