

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2009

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Alive at 25 Coming to Lugoff-Elgin High School

Senator Joel Lourie announced today that the nationally recognized teen driver safety program, Alive at 25, will be offered to students at Lugoff-Elgin High School beginning next month. Lourie, along with Lugoff-Elgin High School Principal Tommy Gladden and statewide director of the National Safety Council, Brooke Russell, will formally introduce the program to the community next Tuesday, July 21, 10am at the Lugoff-Elgin High School Gymnasium. Many other elected officials and community leaders are expected to attend.

Lourie, Russell and Gladden have been working through the details in the last few months and are excited to offer this program to the youth of Kershaw County. "In recent years, we have seen too many lives cut short in our community and our intent is to create something positive from these tragedies. We are asking all students who park on campus to participate," said Gladden.

Brooke Russell, executive director of the SC National Safety Council, which sponsors the Alive at 25 program, commended the community and school for taking a more preventive approach to teen drivers. "Vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for young people, ages 15-24, and I am pleased to work with Senator Lourie and Principal Gladden to bring Alive at 25 to Lugoff-Elgin High School. We have partnered with many high schools throughout the Midlands and state and have seen great success in reducing teen fatalities."

Lourie, who has promoted Alive at 25 on a statewide basis, and has led other highway safety initiatives like passage of the mandatory seatbelt law, feels this program will make teen drivers more aware of their actions. "Our goal is to make sure we give our younger drivers all the tools and information possible to prepare them for the dangers of the road," said Lourie. He added "Driving is an exciting time for teens, but we as parents and community leaders want to make sure that we do everything humanly possible to protect and educate our youth."

**Public announcement: Tuesday, July 21st, 10am, Lugoff-Elgin High School Gymnasium
Speakers: Principal Tommy Gladden, Senator Joel Lourie, Brooke Russell, Kershaw County School Board Joey Dorton, and student leaders.**