



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Anderson Schools Districts Partner Together To Save Lives!**

Belton-Honea Path, and Palmetto High Schools are joining Wren High School in requiring the Alive at 25 program for their students to park on campus in 2010-11. “Superintendent Fowler and Superintendent Chapman along with all three Principals should be commended for taking a pro-active stance to reduce teen fatalities in their communities through education and increased awareness, said Brooke Russell, Executive Director/COO of the South Carolina National Safety Council. “This community has seen far too many young lives lost on its roads over the past years. With Sheriff Skipper and the Anderson County Sheriff’s Office already partnering and training their officers as Instructors, I truly believe this community will reverse the trend”, Russell continued.

Wren High School began the program in November 2009 and will begin enforcing the requirement to obtain a parking pass in the fall. “We are excited to be partnering with the National Safety Council to bring Alive at 25 to our school. We are very hopeful that this course will continue to provide the added incentive and knowledge that our students need to keep them safe while behind the wheel”, said Principal Robbie Binniker.

Mason Gary, Principal of Palmetto High School in Williamston has seen the Wren community rally behind Alive at 25 and the hope that it provides parents that their young adults are getting potential life saving information. “Palmetto High School is adopting the Alive at 25 program as a proactive step to ensure our students are as equipped as possible to be safe and conscientious drivers. We have joined our surrounding schools and the Career Center to have our students who park on campus complete the program. “Student safety is our main goal and Alive at 25 supports this effort”, Mason Gary, Principal Palmetto High School.

## **Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of teens today in the United States**

Alive at 25 is a young driver intervention program that zeroes in on drivers between the ages of 15 and 24 - the group most likely to be involved in fatal collisions. Alive at 25 is a survival course developed by the National Safety Council and is designed to prevent the number one killer of teens, automobile crashes. Alive at 25 is taught by off duty Deputy Sheriffs, and Municipal Police Officers. The course is delivered in one 4 ½ hour program which focuses on the behaviors and decision-making paradigms that young drivers and passengers display behind the wheel.

Since February 2007, Alive at 25 has reached over 23,500 South Carolina drivers in the 15-24 age group. Among those graduates, 97% said they would change their behavior behind the wheel. “Putting 23, 500 young adults through this program is possible due to the support of the Allstate Foundation, SCNSC's largest cooperate sponsor. The Allstate Foundation and Wray Automotive are great partners of SCNSC because they are just as passionate about the cause of safe teen driving as we are. It's wonderful to be able to partner with an organization that is working toward the same very important goal - to reduce the number of teen fatalities due to car crashes”, said Russell.

“We feel very strongly that if we can save one life partnering with Alive at 25, its well worth the time and effort”, stated Jimmy Ouzts, Principal, Belton-Honea Path High School.

The price of the course is \$35; any student who cannot afford the \$35 course registration fee should contact SCNSC at (803) 732-6778 and ask about financial assistance. Alive at 25 is sponsored by the National Safety Council, SC Chapter, and is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization.

More information on SCNSC and the program described in this press release can be found at [www.scnsc.org](http://www.scnsc.org) or by calling 803-732-6778.

### **About The National Safety Council**

The NSC is a non-profit, nongovernmental, international public service organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health. The NSC is a membership organization, founded in 1913 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1953. Members include more than 46,000 businesses, labor organizations, schools, public agencies, private groups and individuals.

### **About The Allstate Foundation**

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. The Allstate Foundation partners with non-profit organizations on community initiatives that promote “safe and vital communities”; “tolerance, inclusion, and diversity”; and “economic empowerment.”

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