



S.T.A.T.I.C.™ launches new initiative to raise awareness about the dangers of texting and talking on the phone while driving

Wilmette, IL—September 15, 2010—Karina Kedo is a High Honors student at Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, Illinois. After she was struck and knocked down while riding her bicycle by a woman who was driving a large SUV while talking on a cell phone, she decided to start the S.T.A.T.I.C.™ (*Stop Talking and Texting in Cars*) Now Illinois initiative to raise awareness about the dangers of texting and talking while driving. Karina was slightly injured by the accident, and states “I realized after the accident that distracted driving is a serious problem that has life-threatening implications. With this in mind, I decided to do something about the problem.”

S.T.A.T.I.C.™ Now Illinois is a student-led initiative which has the support of Patrick Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois; Jesse White, the Secretary of State; and the Clifford Law Offices in Chicago. In addition, AAA Chicago, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), and Lawrence Hall Youth Services also recognize and support this initiative.

This initiative has raised over \$20,000 for the purchase of two virtual driving simulators from Virtual Driver Interactive which will be demonstrated at the S.T.A.T.I.C.™ Now Illinois media launch at Regina on October 12, 2010.

The simulators show students in a safe, effective setting that it is impossible to drive safely while texting and talking on a cell phone. The simulators are portable and will be available, at no cost or expense, to Illinois high schools that would like to offer them for student use during one week time periods.

At the S.T.A.T.I.C.™ Now Illinois launch, representatives from SADD, AAA Chicago, Clifford Law Offices, Lawrence Hall Youth Services, the Office of the Governor and representatives from other local/state governmental offices will provide additional information about the dangers of distracted driving.

In addition, principals/high school administrators/drivers education teachers from approximately 60 local high schools have been invited to attend the S.T.A.T.I.C.™ Now Illinois launch. They will have an opportunity to sign up to have the two driving simulators available at their high school. The simulators, S.T.A.T.I.C.™ Now Illinois banners, informational materials, and copies of the no-texting pledge will be available for use by hosting high schools. The impact of the initiative can potentially reach thousands of high school students in the Chicago land area. Learn more by visiting www.staticnowillinois.webs.com.

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