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SADD SELECTS GIANNI IONA FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

*PA Youth Leader for Students Against Destructive Decisions Joins Top Teen Advisors
From Across the United States to Guide Organization and Represent Peers*

Marlborough, Mass. (April 30, 2015) - SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) the nation's leading peer-to-peer prevention, education and activism organization, today announced that Gianni Iona of Hawley, PA has been named to the SADD National Student Leadership Council for the 2015-2016 school year. Chosen from a nationwide pool of highly qualified applicants, Iona joins nine other student leaders who will represent thousands of SADD chapters across the country.

"Gianni's leadership and his work and dedication to issues that matter to teens make him a great choice to join SADD's National Student Leadership Council," said Dawn Teixeira, president and chief executive officer of SADD. "Drawing from his experiences on the state and local levels, Gianni will provide teen insight; a critical ingredient necessary to forming our national strategy to address emerging health and safety issues facing our teens."

The Student Leadership Council advises the SADD National Board of Directors on policies and programs; plans and implements the annual SADD National Conference; and serves as a national and regional representation network. Members of the council represent SADD at local, regional, and national events and engagements. The members will meet several times throughout the year to accomplish their work. Iona will begin his term at the SADD National Conference in Nashville, TN this June.

Iona is a junior at Wallenpaupack Area High School. He has been an active SADD member for three years and currently serves as both his chapter President and Pennsylvania SADD Student of the Year. In 2014, Iona was chosen to participate in SADD SPEAKs (Students for Policy, Education, Advocacy and Knowledge), SADD's national youth advocacy institute. This program allowed him to spend five days in Washington, D.C., learning about highway safety policy and meeting with federal legislators. Additionally, Iona won 1st place in the SPEAKs Ford Driving Skills for Life national competition in January 2015 and 2nd place in SADD National's Annual Activity of the Year competition in June 2014.

Outside of his extensive work with SADD, Iona excels in FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and Mock Trial, winning numerous regional and statewide awards in each. He is also a dedicated runner, for both Wallenpaupack's Cross Country and Track & Field Teams. Iona encompasses a strong entrepreneurial spirit, founding and managing multiple business ventures. His largest undertaking thus far is GianniBoy Enterprises, a business conglomeration that allows him to showcase his talents as a Disc Jockey, photographer, and IT technician. He is also employed as a valued, long-time member of the social staff at The Woodloch Pines Resort.

"Being selected for the SADD National Student Leadership Council is a great honor, one that is well deserved and brings great pride to our State and local organizations that have worked so hard to educate teens about responsible decision-making," said Felicity DeBacco Erni, Pennsylvania SADD Coordinator. "Gianni has been an exceptional leader for SADD in Pennsylvania, working hard to ensure that teens are aware of the perils of reckless and distracted driving, underage drinking, and other drug use. We are confident he will thrive as an educator and an important advocate for teens nationwide."

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ABOUT SADD

For 34 years, SADD, Inc., headquartered in Marlborough, Mass., has been committed to empowering young people to successfully navigate the risks and pressures of everyday life. Founded as Students Against Driving Drunk in 1981, SADD has become the nation's leading peer-to-peer youth health and safety organization, with thousands of chapters in middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

An inclusive organization, SADD welcomes all youth seeking support for healthy and safe development. SADD promotes broad understanding of the risks facing youth and the importance of reinforcing protective factors. This is accomplished through scientifically supported programs and practices and by sharing youth voices and youth perspectives on issues, laws and policies involving the education, culture, health, safety and treatment of youth. SADD will be effective in accomplishing its mission through caring, compassionate, committed reinforcement of protective factors and elimination of risk factors for individual teens, and by pursuing best practices, sharing scientific knowledge and integrating evidence-based approaches into our work from concept to implementation to evaluation.

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