

For Immediate Release

Contact: Christy Ronaldson
Phone: 703-716-1308
Email: cronaldson@fcclainc.org



FCCLA Staff Presented National Unsung Heroes of Highway Safety Awards

FCCLA Executive Director, Sandy Spavone and Partnership Coordinator, Jacob Smith honored to accept prestigious awards highlighting their work to promote highway safety.

September 20, 2018, Washington, DC – Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), a Career and Technical Student Organization, has worked in partnership with Ford Driving Skills for Life (Ford DSFL) and Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) to educate youth on the importance of safe driving practices. Funded by Ford DSFL, this partnership provides opportunities for FCCLA members to connect directly with highway safety agencies in their state through participation in FCCLA’s Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety (FACTS) national program, a peer education program that engages youth on personal, vehicle, and road safety.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Ford DSFL, Ford Motor Company Fund’s teen-focused auto safety initiative. On Thursday, September 13, DSFL and GHSA hosted an Unsung Heroes of Highway Safety event to honor individuals who distinguish themselves as leaders in highway safety through passion and dedication to making our roads safer for everyone. FCCLA staff members Sandy Spavone and Jacob Smith were honored as Unsung Heroes for their work to expand the awareness of the importance of highway safety.

Sandy Spavone, Executive Director of FCCLA, has been instrumental in working to increase access to programs and opportunities for youth to lead efforts that engage and empower teens to be safe on our highways and know that their actions not only impact their safety but the safety of everyone they share the roads with every day. She dedicated this award and her life’s work to address highway safety in memory of her nephew William Martin Waybright, who was killed at only 2 months of age by a drunk driver.

Jacob Smith aspires to create a generation that does not have to suffer from the burden of road traffic injuries and deaths. His speaking and volunteer work with non-governmental organizations, public schools, and agencies to mobilize communities to action illustrate his relentless effort to make highways safe for all users.

FCCLA is grateful for the leadership of partners like Ford Driving Skills for Life and the Governors Highway Safety Association and their recognition of two of our passionate FCCLA leaders. Through its youth leaders all across the country, FCCLA works to help all who share our roads recognize the need for each of us to make decisions that protect our families and workers on our nation's highways.

About FCCLA

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has more than 160,000 members and more than 5,300 chapters from 49 state associations, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

About Ford Driving Skills for Life

Ford Driving Skills for Life was established in 2003 by Ford Motor Company Fund, the Governors Highway Safety Association, and a panel of safety experts to teach newly licensed teens and parents the necessary skills for safe driving beyond what they learn in standard driver education programs. Now in its fifteenth year, the basic premise behind Ford Driving Skills for Life is to provide a step in the learning process, providing new skills and information not currently shared with newly licensed drivers in the basic driver education courses. The program has trained more than 1 million individuals in safe driving practices. It is offered in 40 countries, and hands-on driving clinics have been conducted in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. For more information visit www.drivingskillsforlife.com.

About GHSA

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is a nonprofit association representing the highway safety offices of states, territories, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. GHSA provides leadership and representation for the states and territories to improve traffic safety, influence national policy, enhance program management and promote best practices. Its members are appointed by their Governors to administer federal and state highway safety funds and implement state highway safety plans. Contact GHSA at 202-789-0942 or visit www.ghsa.org. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GHSAHQ or follow us on Twitter @GHSAHQ.

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