



Idabel High School Community Action Planning Students (CAPS) Finalize their Project Ignition Vehicle Safety Project

May 31, 2013



CAPS students are ending their three-year grant from State Farm Insurance that allowed them to promote vehicle safety with not only students at the high school, but around the community and county. This school year students participated in the national "[Celebrate My Drive](#)" day and promoted reasons to celebrate driving as new teens turn 16 and receive their driver's licenses. They also participated in National Teen Driver Safety Week with activities sponsored at the Idabel High School. High school students prior to prom were presented with "Victims Impact Panel" and vehicle safety checks by Idabel Police Department. Also, students from Central School provided prom safety tips to support good choice behavior and safety on prom night.

CAPS students have also participated with the McCurtain County Coalition for Change as part of the youth voice regarding underage drinking prevention. Underage drinking is the priority selected by the coalition to focus efforts of reducing underage drinking, and Sobriety Checkpoints has been selected as the strategy to reduce drinking and driving.

Vehicle accidents are the number one killer of teens, and these accidents are the most preventable. Distracted driving, not wearing seatbelts, and teens driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs are preventable behaviors that Idabel students have focused on. Idabel students are also developing video vehicle safety PSA's with McCurtain County students and McCurtain County Law Enforcement for future usage at county high schools during high risk celebration events (homecoming, holidays, prom and graduation).

[Project Ignition](#) grants were started in 2004 and are available to public schools across the United States; Idabel Public school has been granted funding 6 years out of the 9, allowing high school students the opportunity to provide service-learning projects in their school and community. Service-learning allows students to invest their classroom knowledge into community efforts and projects; Idabel has been recognized nationally with two of their projects. Students were sent to Albuquerque, New Mexico and Minneapolis, Minnesota to present their projects. Idabel Senior Ricky Galloway has been instrumental in developing partnerships as a student with McCurtain County Coalition for Change. He represented the coalition at Legislative Meet and Greet where he spoke about the vehicle safety project and how the project has provided support for student behavior choices and positive decision making. Raven Bossett, a junior at Idabel High School, has been a strong advocate for vehicle safety project. She has also actively participated in Retail Beverage Compliance Checks that educate retailers on Oklahoma laws and consequences.