



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PREVENTING DISTRACTED DRIVING VIDEO CONTEST WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED

CONOVER -- The winners of the fourth annual Preventing Distracted Driving Video Contest will be announced April 7 at a Red Carpet Event beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Newton-Conover Middle School Auditorium, located at 873 Northern Drive NW, Conover.

This annual contest is sponsored by the Preventing Distracted Driving Committee and the Catawba County Youth Council. High school students from throughout the county were invited to create 60-second videos addressing the dangers of distracted driving. Individuals or teams of no more than five students could submit videos. This year, approximately 200 students participated, creating 14 videos. The videos were judged by the Preventing Distracted Driving Committee.

All videos will be shown during the awards ceremony. The video judged best by the committee will receive the First Place Video Award. The team winning this prize will receive a limo ride and lunch at the Olive Garden, plus \$500 for their school.

Participants in the Red Carpet Event will vote for the Viewer's Choice Award by texting a voting code for their favorite video. Those attending should bring their cell phones to participate. The team winning the Viewer's Choice Award will receive \$300 for their school. The winner of the Community Choice Award will also be announced. This award is based on the number of likes their video received on the contest's Facebook page and on YouTube.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the Catawba County Sheriff's Office will offer a Distracted Driving interactive driving challenge. The Challenger Early College High School Chorus will also perform. At 6:30 p.m., Tammy Garlock of Charlotte will share the story of her 17-year old son, Brian, who died in an accident resulting from distracted driving. Her family's story may be seen at <http://www.dyingchangepseverything.org>.

This year's contest sponsors include AAA Carolinas, Action Limousine, Carmike Cinemas, Catawba County Government, Catawba County Community Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team, Catawba County Schools, Catawba County Youth Council, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Council on Adolescents of Catawba County, Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet, Drum and Willis-Reynolds Funeral Home, Hickory City Schools, Mike Johnson's Hickory Toyota, NC Cooperative Extension, North Carolina Driving School manager, Fentress Chestnut, Newton-Conover High School, Safe Kids Catawba County, and State Farm agent Sig Holcomb.

For more information about the contest, and to watch the videos, go to <http://www.facebook.com/DistractedDrivingVideoContest> and then navigate to the videos section.

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