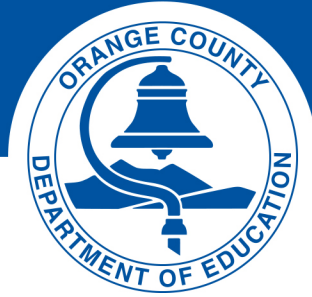


NEWS RELEASE

Al Mijares, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



Contact: Ian Hanigan
714-966-4008
communications@ocde.us

Friday Night Live youth to host Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking Student-led effort is part of a national campaign to mobilize communities

LAKE FOREST, Calif., Feb. 3, 2016 – Student leaders from the Santiago de Compostela Church Youth Ministry’s Friday Night Live chapter, in collaboration with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the state Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), will host a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the dangers of underage drinking and potential preventative measures from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6.

FNL members have taken the lead on planning and preparing for the event, which will feature prevention professionals and youth panelists speaking to an audience of parents and students. The meeting aligns with a national SAMHSA-supported initiative called “Communities Talk: Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking.”

WHO: Friday Night Live youth leaders, in collaboration with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the state Office of Traffic Safety and Mothers Against Drunk Driving

WHAT: As part of a national effort, local youth leaders have organized a Town Hall Meeting to raise awareness of the impacts of underage drinking and mobilize the community to take preventative action.

WHEN: 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016

WHERE: Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church
21682 Lake Forest Drive, Lake Forest, Calif. 92630

CONTACT: Elke Petras at 714-966-4458 or epetras@ocde.us

Underage drinking remains a pressing public health concern that continues to take a toll on young people, as well as their families and communities. According to SAMHSA, alcohol annually is responsible for the deaths of more than 4,300 underage youth.

Each day in the U.S., more than 4,750 children under age 16 ingest their first alcoholic beverage. Underage drinking accounts for 11 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States and contributes to a range of costly health and societal problems, including traffic fatalities, suicide,

violence, brain impairment, alcohol dependence, academic problems and alcohol and drug poisoning. Studies indicate that youth who start drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse in their lifetimes than those who begin drinking at age 21 or older.

For more information on the national “Communities Talk: Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking” campaign, visit www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/townhallmeetings.

About Friday Night Live

Friday Night Live (FNL) is a high school youth development program that is part of the Orange County Department of Education’s Orange County Friday Night Live Partnership. Students who participate in FNL focus on alcohol and drug prevention with the goal of promoting lasting change in their schools and communities. The program provides leadership opportunities that support young people as they develop meaningful skills in the areas of communication, collaboration and problem-solving. OCFNLP is funded by the County of Orange Health Care Agency’s Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT).

For more information, contact Orange County Department of Education Program Specialist Elke Petras at 714-966-4458 or epetras@ocde.us.

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