

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY KICKSOFF
TEEN SPEAKER SERIES

Jackson, MS – In July 2008, The Office of Highway Safety (OHS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) joined forces to begin a two year demo program in Mississippi, the mission, to reduce teen fatalities. That same year 71 percent of all teen passenger vehicle occupants, ages 16-20, killed in a crash in Mississippi were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash. This number is down 6 percent from 2007, but is still **11 percent higher** than the national average. The OHS and NHTSA are committed to increasing seat belt usage in order to save the lives of our teens.

This October, in preparation and to bring public awareness to not only teens but adults, OHS will host a speaker series bringing two of the nation's top motivational speakers to Mississippi beginning Thursday 24th and ending with a community wide event on September 30th.

Harriet Turk, who was the first youth program coordinator for OHS and now a national speaker, will meet with students at Northwest Rankin High School, Sumner Hill Jr. High and Richland High School on September 24- 25, 2009. Turk's high energy will challenge students to make the right choices while behind the wheel.

Bobby Petrocelli, a former high school teacher and coach, will share with students how the power of each decision and 10 seconds can change your life. Bobby will begin a three day tour on September 28th to speak to students at Gulfport High School, Bay Sr. High School, Greene County Academy, Simpson County Academy, Rosa Scott High School, Pisgah High School, Tri-County Academy, Ridgeland High School and end on September 30th with a FREE community wide event held at Northwest Rankin Performing Arts Building in Brandon.

OHS is concentrating efforts on the eight counties in Mississippi that make up 26% of all teen fatalities in Mississippi. : Hinds, Rankin, Madison, Leake, Harrison, Jackson, Stone and George.

This program combines the efforts of paid media, outreach and most importantly law enforcement to combat this problem. The speaker series is sponsored by a grant through the University of Southern Mississippi and the Office of Highway Safety.

For more information contact Robin Layton, Special Projects Coordinator with the Office of Highway Safety at 601-987-4172.

HARRIET TURK

School	Date	Presentation Time	Principal	No. of students	Address	Phone Number	Email
North west Rankin High School	Thurs. 9/24/09	9:20 a.m. –	Richard Morrison/		5805 Hwy 25	601-992-2242	rmorrison@rcsd.ms
		10:10 a.m.	Betty Collins		Flowood		bcollins@rcsd.ms
Richland High School	Fri. 9/25/09	9:00 a.m. –	Richard Sutton/	540	1202 Hwy 49	601-939-5144	testep@rcsd.ms
		9:45 a.m.	Tanya Estep		Richland		
Sumner Jr High School	Fri. 9/25/09	3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	Willie McInnis/Cheri Anglin		Clinton	601-953-0598	cwdancerca@yahoo.com

BOBBY PETROCELLI

School	Date	Presentation Time	Principal	No. of students	Address	Phone Number	Email
Gulfport High School	Monday 9/28/09	9:00 a.m.	Mike Lindsey	500-700	100 Perry St. Gulfport	228-896-8570	Mike.lindsey@gulfportschools.org
Bay High School	Monday 9/28/09	1:45 p.m.	Dr. Andy Parker		750 Blue Meadow Rd Bay St. Louis	228-467-6611	aparker@bwsd.org
Rosa Scott High School	Tuesday 9/29/09	2:00 p.m.	Mr. Ted Poore	600	200 Crawford St Madison	601-605-0054	tpoore@madison-schools.com
Pisgah High School	Wednesday 9/30/09	8:45 a.m.	Dr. Norman Session	220	P O Box 70 Sandhill	601-829-2825	nsessions@rcsd.ms
Tri-County Academy	Wednesday 9/30/09	10:30 a.m.	Mark Johnson	106	400 Cox Ferry Rd Flora	601-879-8517	Mark.johnson@tricountyacademy.org
Ridgeland High School	Wednesday 9/30/09	1:30 a.m.	Lee Boozer (Officer Gary Davis)		586 Sunnybrook Rd Ridgeland	601-898-5023	Gary.Davis@ridgeland.ms.org
School	Date	Time	Principal	No. of students	Address	Phone Number	Email
Community Event NW RANKIN	Wednesday 9/30/09	7:00 p.m.	Richard Morrison		5805 Hwy 25 Flowood	601-992-2242	rmorrison@rcsd.ms