

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Area Substance Abuse Prevention (A.S.A.P.) Coalition HONORED AT CADCA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM**

On Feb. 7, the Area Substance Abuse Prevention (A.S.A.P.) Coalition was one of 171 community coalitions honored during a graduation ceremony at CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C. The coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy, a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community drug prevention leaders.

"We are so proud of our coalition for investing the time and resources to take advantage of the best community coalition training in the world. To graduate from this year-long intensive course is no small feat and A.S.A.P. is more prepared today to be an effective, sustainable coalition because of this training," said Whitney Abbott, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator. "We look forward to applying our knowledge and strategies to ensure the youth in our community live drug free."

The coalition recently hosted an Impaired & Distracted Driving event at O'Neill and Verdigre High School. A.S.A.P. plans to implement the program at West Boyd High in the near future. Six Responsible Beverage Server Trainings are planned in April, and four Youth Leadership Summits in February and March.

CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive, year-long training program developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute. The NCA incorporates three, week-long classroom sessions, a web-based distance learning component, an online workstation where participants network and share planning products and free ongoing technical assistance. To graduate, coalitions must complete a rigorous curriculum. They must participate in all components of the NCA and complete five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of their comprehensive plan for community change. Jacquie Wilson and Whitney Abbott, A.S.A.P. coordinators, attended the 2016 training in Tampa, FL.

CADCA's National Leadership Forum is a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies to address substance abuse and hear from nationally-known prevention experts, federal administrators, and concerned policymakers. The Forum brings together approximately 3,000 attendees representing coalitions from all regions of the country and internationally, government leaders, youth, prevention specialists, addiction treatment professionals, addiction recovery advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals, and faith-based leaders. It is the largest training event for the prevention field.

