

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 15, 2016**



## **Safe and Sober Kicks off 12th Year with Two Live Assemblies**

*Hillcrest High School and Springfield Catholic are first local schools to participate*

(Springfield, Mo.) – Beginning Tuesday and Wednesday, school assemblies will be held at Hillcrest High and Springfield Catholic, featuring Kurt Larson encouraging teens to be safe and sober. What started in 2004 as a small outreach program for the five Springfield high schools has grown to a statewide program reaching 296 high schools and more than 120,000 students this spring. Founded by Springfield attorney Kurt Larson, Missouri Safe and Sober educates students, parents and teachers on the dangers of underage drinking and drunk driving.

“It’s my professional and personal mission to remind young people how their choices regarding drugs and alcohol can have a profound affect upon their lives and the lives of others,” Larson said.

In an effort to reach students across the state, Safe and Sober utilizes a video-based presentation including real stories of the consequences of underage drinking. After students watch the video, they are asked to take a pledge to be safe and sober. Educational materials are also made available to parents to remind them of the importance of starting an ongoing conversation with their teen about alcohol.

“The timing of [the Safe and Sober program] is perfect,” teacher Tina Mills at Cassville High School said following the school’s assembly last spring. “It is before our prom and before things start to get crazy. We have had kids come back after it a say ‘because of that assembly, I chose differently and decided to make a wiser decision.’ It does make a difference.”

The Safe and Sober program is available to all high schools throughout the state during the spring semester. The middle school program is held during Red Ribbon Week scheduled for October 23 – 31.

We invite members of the media to attend either of the following Safe and Sober assemblies:

**Tuesday, February 16**

9:45 a.m. – Hillcrest High

**Wednesday, February 17**

9 a.m. – Springfield Catholic

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Safe and Sober is a non-profit organization, dedicated to educating Missouri high school students, middle school students and their parents on the dangers of underage drinking and drinking and driving. For more information visit [missourisafeandsober.com](http://missourisafeandsober.com). Safe and Sober is proudly sponsored by Larson Law Firm, O’Reilly Auto Parts, Great Southern Bank and the MoDOT.

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