

# Kansas Department of Transportation

Bureau of Traffic Safety  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **KDOT SPONSORS SECOND-ANNUAL SOBRIETY ROCKS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION** *College Scholarships Awarded to Kansas Youth Who Help Create Next Anti-Underage Drinking Song*

TOPEKA, Kan. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is sponsoring its second-annual contest to find the next great song that encourages Kansas youth to resist pressure and abstain from drinking alcohol until reaching the legal age limit of 21. December's production of *Numb the Pain*, by Mitchell Irving (Irv de Phenom), this year's over-all winner, officially kicks off the 2008 Sobriety Rocks Scholarship Contest.

The contest is an opportunity for Kansas' youth to create their own song about dealing with the pressure associated with drinking or other drugs in hopes of winning as much as \$3,000 in college scholarships. Kansas residents, ages 12 through 20, are encouraged to enter the competition by logging onto [www.sobrietyrocksk.net](http://www.sobrietyrocksk.net).

Three separate \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded on May 1, 2008 for best original lyrics, best performance and best original song. It is possible for one contestant to win in more than one category.

"In annual surveys, over the last three years, 17% of Kansas students, grades 6 through 12, reported at least one session of binge drinking in the previous two weeks," said Pete Bodyk, Chief of KDOT's Bureau of Traffic Safety. "In fact, during 2007, 40% of high school sophomores and 53% of seniors reported having consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days," No wonder the acting U.S. Surgeon General, Kenneth Moritsugu, in 2007, issued a call for

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government, school officials, parents, and youth themselves, to do more to prevent underage drinking. Mitchell Irving has written a fabulous song dealing with the trials over alcohol that young people face today, and we can't wait to find the next great song."

Songs can be any format or style of music including, but not limited to, rap, heavy metal, rock, country, alternative or pop. Potential song topics may include drinking alcohol as a result of peer pressure; the use of alcohol as an avoidance method; depression, family trouble and other social problems that are often created or made worse by alcohol; and the fact that it is illegal with unpleasant consequences for those young persons who are apprehended.

All entries will be judged by a panel of experts consisting of music instructors, music industry professionals, KDOT representatives, students and media members. Judging will be based on originality, the passion and persuasiveness of the message, and the likelihood that the song, or a part of it, would be useful in creating next year's song to reduce underage drinking.

Audio/video versions of *Numb The Pain* and *In My Time* are available for free download at **[www.sobrietyrockskc.net](http://www.sobrietyrockskc.net)**. CD/DVD's are also available at no charge from KDOT's Bureau of Traffic Safety by calling 785-296-3756.

Kansas law declares that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, or attempt to purchase, possess or consume alcohol. It is also illegal for anyone to furnish alcohol to persons under the age of 21, except as provided by law. Furthermore, it is illegal for persons of any age to host individuals under the age of 21 who are in possession of, or drinking, alcohol (incl. cereal malt beverage) while on property owned, rented, or otherwise controlled by the host.

KDOT offers an anonymous tipline, 1-866-Must-B-21 (866-687-8221), designed to encourage citizens to become actively involved in reporting underage drinking violations that might otherwise go unnoticed. The toll-free tipline operates 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, and is available for citizens to anonymously report parties involving underage drinking, purchases of alcohol for underage persons, and retailers making underage sales.

Log onto [www.sobrietyrockskc.net](http://www.sobrietyrockskc.net) for additional information, a complete set of rules or to enter the KDOT 2008 Sobriety Rocks Scholarship Contest.

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