

# Kansas Department of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Safety & Technology

700 SW Harrison

Topeka, KS 66603-3754



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### For More Information:

10-010

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#### **KDOT SPONSORS FOURTH-ANNUAL SOBRIETY ROCKS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION** *Scholarships Awarded to Kansas Youth Who Express Themselves Creatively in Anti-Underage Drinking Effort*

TOPEKA, Kan. (February, 2010) – The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is sponsoring its fourth-annual arts contest that encourages Kansas youth to resist pressure and abstain from drinking alcohol until reaching the legal age limit of 21.

The contest allows Kansas' youth to express themselves creatively through music, art, writing or public service announcement in hopes of winning as much as \$4,000 in scholarships. Kansas residents, ages 14 through 20, are encouraged to enter the competition by logging onto [www.sobrietyrockskans.net](http://www.sobrietyrockskans.net). Entries are due April 15. Four separate \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June for best music, best art, best writing and best public service announcement. It is possible for one contestant to win in more than one category.

“Half of Kansas high school seniors report having consumed alcohol in the last month, many of them binge drinking,” reports Pete Bodyk, Manager of KDOT’s Traffic Safety section. “High levels of drinking among teens of all ages make underage drinking a serious and widespread threat to all Kansans' health and safety. Last year’s contest winners Sherissa Callarman, Breanna Ellison, Justine Gruen and Elizabeth Kraushar created inspiring works that vividly illustrate the dangers of alcohol for teens – the troubles it brings and how to resist peer pressure. We can’t wait to see what this year brings,” said Bodyk.

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For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact KDOT Traffic Safety,  
700 SW Harrison St., Third Floor West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3756.

Potential topics could include:

- peer pressure to drink alcohol
- finding more to life than drinking
- problems that are created or made worse by alcohol
- why waiting until age 21 to drink is smart.

The newly updated home page at [www.sobrietyrocksk.net](http://www.sobrietyrocksk.net) features 2009 winners and runners-up to inspire students thinking of entering this year.

Entries will be judged by instructors and professionals in the four categories, KDOT representatives, and student advocates from across the state. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, craftsmanship and the passion of the message.

Log onto [www.sobrietyrocksk.net](http://www.sobrietyrocksk.net) for additional contest information, a complete set of rules or for inspiration on the KDOT 2010 Sobriety Rocks Scholarship Contest.

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