May 2013 – LIVE REAL Mentor Listserv Email

Hello LIVE REAL Mentors,

You may have recently seen that the NDSU President’s Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs announced the release of its Final Report on the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan to Address High Risk Alcohol and Other Drug Use. The final report provides an overview of the council’s efforts and progress and a preview of upcoming prevention initiatives. This report is the capstone of the focused efforts of the council over the past several years, and I wanted to take a moment to share with you the hard work and accomplishments of this group.

Highlights of the report include:

- Implementation of electronic Check-Up to Go as a requirement for all first-year students has led to 95% completion rates
- The student-developed Before One More campaign has prompted students to think about their drinking choices and increased low and moderate risk drinkers’ confidence in making informed choices about alcohol use
- Research data was provided to local law enforcement to help maximize the effectiveness of sobriety checkpoints
- Rates of negative consequences related to AOD use are steadily declining among NDSU students. Rates of students missing classes or performing poorly on tests/projects have substantially decreased.
- Illicit drug use, other than marijuana, is minimal among NDSU students
- High-risk drinking continues to be perceived as normal behavior among NDSU students. The council intends to focus on environmental factors that contribute to this perception in an upcoming strategic plan.
- Efforts to communicate the work of the council have resulted in increased awareness of prevention work, with 65% of NDSU students indicating they have knowledge of prevention programs in 2012 (an increase from 41% in 2010)

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our key stakeholders, including our LIVE REAL Mentors. We look forward to continue our productive partnerships as we engage in our new strategic planning process and introduce our new strategic plan in fall 2013. A major focus of this new plan will be collaborating with campus and community stakeholders to address environmental issues that contribute to high-risk alcohol and other drug use.

More information about the Final Report and the work of the council is available at www.ndsu.edu/alcoholinfo/presidents_council_on_aod/pcaod_strategic_plan.

Please feel free to contact me at Erika.Beseler@ndsu.edu if you have any questions or thoughts about future areas of focus for our prevention efforts.

Best,

Erika