



May 4, 2018

CONTACT:
Vickie Smith, 217-836-3831

TWO TEAMS OF LOCAL TEENS COME OUT WINNERS IN STATEWIDE VIDEO CHALLENGE

**First place team each received an iPad Pro, their school a \$1,000 grant;
Third place team each received an iPad Mini**

Springfield, Ill. – The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) today awarded two teams of local teens who won first and third place in a statewide annual NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge. The first place winners were from Bloomington-Normal Regional Alternative School and each team member received an iPad Pro and their school awarded a \$1,000 grant. In addition, the team’s coordinating administrator who championed the project also won \$500. The third place winners were from Hudson’s Green Scouts organization and each of the team members received an iPad Mini. The award money and technology are courtesy of a grant from Verizon.

Now in its sixth year, the ICADV NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge is a competition that invites high school teens throughout the state to create short PSA-type videos that promote healthy relationships. The videos were judged based on creativity, audience appeal and messaging.

"I am so excited about the leadership the youth in this country are modeling to end violence in our communities," said Vickie Smith, Executive Director of the ICADV. "The students at Regional Alternative School and Green Scouts exemplify this leadership through highlighting healthy relationships."

"As Comptroller, I've seen firsthand the devastating effects of abuse when I've visited domestic violence shelters around the state, and I've prioritized state payments to programs that offer safety and support to survivors. The winners of this video challenge, as well as all the students who participated, should be proud of their work to educate their peers and, let's hope, prevent teen dating abuse," said State of Illinois Comptroller, Susana A. Mendoza.

For more than a decade, Verizon has been a champion of ending domestic violence. Verizon supports a broad range of programs that include: training health care practitioners and first responders about screening for signs of abuse; engaging men as role models and advocates for prevention; educating teens about preventing dating violence and providing resources for domestic prevention organizations and survivors.

To learn more about the challenge and ICADV, or to view the winning videos visit www.ilcadv.org.

###