



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2015 DRUG SUMMIT - "CHANGING OUR CULTURE" **TO PREVENT YOUTH SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

LEONARDTOWN, MD – Ms. Sarita Lee, Student Board member, and Mr. J. Scott Smith, Interim Superintendent of Schools, are pleased to announce that St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) will host a student sponsored summit focusing on youth substance misuse prevention. **The summit will be held on March 10, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center (JAFCTC) located at 24005 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.**

The purpose of the summit is to increase awareness and educate community students about the risk and dangers associated with substance misuse and to generate discussion about future projects that will serve to bring further understanding to all St. Mary's County school age students about the dangers and risks associated with substance misuse and addiction. 150 middle and high school students representing public and non-public schools in St. Mary's County will attend the summit that will be led and facilitated by fellow students. The summit will feature a keynote speaker from the Baltimore based "Upside Down Organization" and interactive student learning sessions. The summit is co-sponsored and supported through several community partnerships. Supporting partners include the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Health Department, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services, Walden Behavioral Health of Southern Maryland, and the Behavioral Health Action Team of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership.

The Board of Education of St. Mary's County has continually supported the education of students, parents, guardians, and the community at large as a key strategy in substance misuse prevention and increasing awareness about the resources available in our community to help prevent this high risk behavior.

Exhibitors representing community resources available for families and youth seeking assistance with substance misuse concerns will be represented and available during the summit. Exhibitor space for the summit is available, but limited, and will be filled as requests for space are received. If you would like to apply to sponsor an exhibit, please submit the exhibitor registration form available via the SMCPS home page www.smcps.org by following the link to 2015 Drug Summit. Exhibitors will be notified when their application has been approved. If you would like additional information about the summit, contact the Department of Safety and Security at 301-475-4256 extension 34150.