

CAST

Two from UMAHS to attend national leadership forum

Two eleventh grade Upper Merion Area High School Students, Julia Loane and Dianna Wambach, have been selected to attend the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) 25th National Leadership Forum in National Harbor, MD, just outside Washington, D.C. The Forum, which will be held the first week of February, is the nation's largest training for substance abuse prevention. The students were selected based on essays they wrote and their participation in the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club. The students will be attending the forum with Susan Shelton, Community Mobilizer for CAST, the Community Alliance for a Safer Tomorrow. At the forum, they will take part in the National Youth Leadership Initiative where they will learn to dismantle community problems as a team and create a "Youth In Action Plan," which they will implement upon return.

"I'm excited to be bringing teens to the forum and to have meaningful youth engagement in our coalition,"



Upper Merion Area High School juniors Dianna Wambach (left) and Julia Loane are headed to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) 25th National Leadership Forum in National Harbor, MD.

said Shelton.

"Helping kids my age be able to confront risks and pressures that challenge them in their daily lives is a great accomplishment," said Wambach, who currently serves as secretary for the SADD Club. "The conference is going to give us the tools to build a drug-free community and create a safer tomorrow," she added.

Since September, CAST

and SADD have partnered on a variety of projects, including "It Can Wait," a campaign aimed at encouraging youth not to text and drive, Red Ribbon Week, and the Great American Smokeout. "We're looking forward to doing even more projects together. We hope to return reenergized with exciting new ideas," said Shelton.

For more information on CAST, visit www.umacast.org.