



Whittier Union HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

To Achieve and Maintain Excellence...

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 29, 2023 **CONTACT:** Andrea Garcia **PHONE:** 909-447-2403

Whittier Union High School Students Get Insight to Dangers of Driving During ‘Every 15 Minutes’ Program

WHAT: Whittier Union High School District’s Pioneer High School will host an “Every 15 Minutes” program, a two-day event featuring a simulated car crash, rescue efforts and the dramatized deaths of students. The program will also consist of a mock funeral that aims to emphasize the dangers of operating a vehicle while under the influence.

WHEN: 11 a.m., Monday, April 3 | 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 4

WHERE: Pioneer High School, 10800 Benavon St., Whittier

DETAILS: The program will begin with a simulated live-action auto crash in front of Pioneer High on Monday, April 3, along with a pre-recorded 911 call which activates an emergency response by local law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics and the coroner. The staged crash will involve students who are classified as “critically and fatally wounded” and transported via ambulance to a local hospital, as well as an “injured” student, who is then arrested for drunk driving. Throughout the day, individual students are pulled from class to provide a visual of the statistic that every 15 minutes someone dies from an alcohol related traffic collision. Students will then return to class but avoid interaction with their peers, further emphasizing that they are no longer part of the community.

The students then participate in an overnight retreat where they hear from people involved in or affected by drunk driving crashes. The program concludes with a mock funeral school assembly on Tuesday, April 4, featuring a video of the previous day’s event and excerpts from students.

“Every 15 Minutes” is a national campaign which focuses on high school juniors and seniors and aims to challenge students to think about the dangers of drunken driving. The campaign also encourages students to think about the impact that their decisions can have on their family, friends and community.

Coverage of this event is welcome and greatly appreciated.

OUR MISSION:

The Whittier Union High School District provides all students with an engaging, quality standards-based instructional program delivered by a well-trained staff resulting in improved student achievement. Whittier Union High School District works to achieve and maintain excellence in providing a comprehensive education for all students.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Jaime Lopez
President

Dr. Ralph S. Pacheco
Vice President

Gary Mendez
Clerk

Irma Rodríguez Moisa
Member

Dr. Russell Castañeda-Calleros
Member

Dr. Monica Oviedo
Superintendent