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LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES

Syracuse, NY—Twelve area high school students were selected as *Youth Staff* for this year's Teen Institute, a program sponsored by Prevention Network. The students selected for this honor were chosen through an application and interview process designed to assess leadership skills. Youth Staff members help plan and implement events that take place during the agency's annual Teen Institute retreat. In addition, they help coordinate follow-up initiatives in their schools and communities.

The Teen Institute conference for high school students is scheduled for November 8-11, 2007, at Camp Long Point in Penn Yan. Attendees of the four-day, three-night educational retreat participate in workshops, social activities, and live skits that address alcohol and other drug prevention. It is designed to foster peer leadership, self-esteem, and group interaction skills.

The Youth Staff was formally inducted in to Teen Institute on September 18th during a pledge ceremony attended by their parents, advisors, and school counselors. On that occasion, students signed an official code of conduct as part of their agreement to serve as role models for the duration of their one-year commitment. Prevention Network's Teen Institute is pleased to welcome the following Youth Staff for 2007-2008:

Rebecca Bailey, Bishop Grimes High School
Adeline Fagan, Bishop Ludden High School
Justin Kimber, Bishop Ludden High School
Christopher Case, Cicero North Syracuse High School
Terrence Lawson, Cicero North Syracuse High School
Bridget Lundy, Lafayette High School
Caroline Myrdek, Lafayette High School
Elise Tarolli, Marcellus High School
Justina Luis, Solvay High School
Colleen Holland, Tully High School
Bethani Rahrle, Tully High School
Rachel Amsterdam, Westhill High School

Teen Institute is a comprehensive program designed to train, mobilize, and empower youth to prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and self-destructive behaviors in themselves and their peers. The program emphasizes peer leadership and positive life skills development. Teen Institute has been in existence in Onondaga County since 1986 and nationally since 1965. For more information about this program, please contact Nicole Smith, coordinator of Teen Institute, at 471-1359 or nsmith@PreventionNetwork.info

Photo attached.

Prevention Network is a not for profit agency that educates, trains, and provides prevention services pertaining to substance use, abuse, and addictions to the Central New York Community. For over 50 years, the agency has assisted individuals, families, schools and businesses through helpful information and training, anonymous referrals, and support services to assure positive outcomes.