



Kathleen Sebelius, Governor  
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

[www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov)

Division of Health

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Laurie Hart, 785-296-8476, [lhart@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:lhart@kdhe.state.ks.us)  
Mike Heideman, 785-296-4363, [mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us)

## **“Choose Respect” Contest Winners Announced**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has announced the results of the Choose Respect “Express Yourself” contest. The winners’ names are posted on the contest website at [www.kdheks.gov/idp/choose\\_respect.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/choose_respect.htm).

“I couldn’t be more pleased with all of the entries we received, and selecting a handful of winners was really a difficult choice,” said Laurie Hart with the Kansas Choose Respect program at KDHE. “It is wonderful to know that so many kids understand respect, and are willing to communicate about it with their peers.”

The Choose Respect “Express Yourself” contest winners are:

- \* Trevor Berberick, Wanamaker Elementary School, Topeka
- \* Cassandra Blackwell, Seaman High School, Topeka
- \* Carmen Caffey, Lawrence High School
- \* Sam Capoun, Mill Creek Valley Middle School, Paxico
- \* Jake Dugan, Conway Springs High School
- \* Alexis Godlove, Wanamaker Elementary School, Topeka
- \* Allison Hullinger, Conway Springs High School
- \* Katelyn Hilger, Conway Springs High School
- \* Angeleigha Dawn Mendez, Hiawatha High School
- \* Chelsea O’Neal, Conway Springs High School
- \* Konner Winkley, Wanamaker Elementary School, Topeka

Kansas youth ages 11-16 submitted written essays on how youth make respectful choices in everyday life. A panel comprised of advocates, media specialists, and health officials judged the essays. The winners will each receive an Apple iPod Shuffle MP3 player, and have the opportunity to participate in the production of a youth podcast about healthy relationships. Once completed, the podcast will be launched nationally through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Choose Respect initiative.

Each year, 1 in 11 youth reports being a victim of physical dating abuse. Launched in Kansas in June 2006, the Choose Respect initiative focuses on assisting youth in choosing healthy relationships and avoiding behaviors that would lead to future dating abuse. For more information, please visit [www.kdheks.gov/idp/choose\\_respect.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/choose_respect.htm) or [www.chooserespect.org](http://www.chooserespect.org).

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