For Immediate Release
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Governor Proclaims Iowa DARE Day

DES MOINES – Governor Terry E. Branstad proclaimed Thursday, April 14 Iowa DARE Day, an occasion to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. The proclamation honors students that have graduated from DARE, as well as schools and law enforcement agencies that have hosted or taught DARE’s science-based drug, violence and bullying prevention classes.

More than 100 middle school students, educators, law enforcement instructors and state officials participated in a DARE Day celebration Thursday at the Wallace State Office Building near the Iowa Capitol.

“I congratulate the thousands of Iowa students studying healthy life skills in this year’s DARE classes, but I also challenge them to pay it forward at home by sharing lessons learned with younger siblings and friends,” said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy, who spoke at Thursday’s ceremony. “Iowans also owe a debt of gratitude to the many law enforcement officials and educators who support DARE students.”

One of those educators is Roland-Story Middle School Principal John Sheahan, who serves as President of DARE Iowa.

“Young Iowans need the help and support of caring adults to resist pressure to use drugs or engage in other harmful activities,” said Sheahan. “DARE backs the prevention efforts of parents and others, by reinforcing skills that can be put into action by students.”

“Education is a proven tool for preventing risky behavior and improving quality of life, and is one reason a federal report ranks Iowa as having the lowest youth rate of illicit drug use in the nation,” said Lukan. “Still, too many families are hurting from drugs and violence, and we must continue building on what works to make our children’s future brighter.”

Nearly 28,000 students have participated in DARE classes this year in school districts throughout Iowa. April 21 has been proclaimed National DARE Day in the U.S.

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