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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27th Annual Violence Prevention Project Awards Ceremony

DAYTON, OH (5/2/2017) – Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced that the 27th annual Violence Prevention Project was held today at the Dayton Masonic Center, 525 W. Riverview Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

Nearly 1,200 students entered the contest, and prizes and awards were given to the winners of the project. The top 150 students were invited to attend the ceremony and enjoyed a free pizza lunch, courtesy of Dayton's Original Pizza Factory. Prosecutor Heck also recognized many area teachers, noting that this is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers in attendance received a spa gift card courtesy of Square One Salon and Spa.

The Violence Prevention Project encourages Montgomery County's youth to submit a poster or write an essay describing how violence affects our community and suggest ways to prevent violence. Common themes in the poster contest were bullying and cyber bullying. A significant number of the essays this year addressed the topic of drug abuse, especially heroin addiction. These posters and essays show that the youth in our community are aware of the dangers and understand the causes of violence.

Every student who entered the contest will receive a prize. Today's ceremony recognized some of the best entries, and those participants were awarded additional prizes. Sponsorship of the Violence Prevention Project this year came from Montgomery County Sheriff Phil Plummer, Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl, Centerville Police Chief Bruce Robertson, King's Island, the Kroger Aquatic Center at The Heights, the Dayton International Peace Museum, Aullwood Audubon Center, GZK Restaurant Systems, Dairy Queen, Wal-Mart, Evans Bakery, Firehouse Subs, and Mike-Sells Potato Chips.

Photos from the event and the winning posters will be featured in Prosecutor Heck's annual Violence Prevention Calendar, which is distributed each year.

Prosecutor Heck added, "I am so optimistic because of the attitudes and positive outlook of the young people such as those we acknowledged today. I am proud of what they do and represent, and thank those students for being role models for others."

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