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MEDIA HONORED FOR RAISING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS

Five local print and television news organizations were honored May 14 at this year's San Diego County Substance Abuse Summit for their role in addressing alcohol, tobacco and other issues. The awards included:

- **Special Recognition:** *North County Times*. For ongoing commitment to covering substance abuse and its impact on communities.
- **Best Broadcast Story:** *KGTV*. For an investigative story on drug paraphernalia sold in South East San Diego liquor stores.
- **Special Recognition:** *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. For coverage of the alcohol beach ban initiative and higher education substance abuse issues.
- **Special Recognition:** *Univision*. For an ongoing commitment to covering substance abuse issues.
- **Civic Journalism Award:** *KNSD 7/39*. For showing a commitment to community dialogue as a solution to substance abuse problems.

“Their reporting helped expand public understanding and support for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and recovery strategies across the region,” said Ron Roberts, Chairman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors. “The media play a vital role in defining the causes and issues and broadening public debate around substance abuse in this county. By identifying problems and reporting solutions, the media help create healthier and safer communities.”

Bonnie Helander, executive director, San Diego County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, added: “By consistently reporting substance abuse problems, the media aid community efforts in substance abuse prevention.”

The Substance Abuse Summit, initiated by the County of San Diego in 1995, is part of a long-term strategy to reduce the personal, social and economic costs related to substance abuse in the County. SAS VII took place May 13-14, 2002. For more information about the summit, visit **www.substanceabusesummit.com**. Journalists covering issues related to alcohol and other drugs can find a range of resources — including fact sheets, contact information and recent reports — at the Substance Abuse Newsroom: **www.alcoholdrugnewsroom.org**

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