



# LifeSmarts

*Learn it. Love it.*

## **Notes from the Director** **LifeSmarts Alumni Update, February 4, 2021**

Dear Alumni,

We hope you have had a great start to 2021! As I mentioned last month, our Alumni Association is growing and gaining momentum as we gear up for the 2021 National LifeSmarts Championship in April.

We are creating a LifeSmarts Alumni Advisory Board to help lead the Alumni Association. Program alumni will help shape the growing LifeSmarts Alumni Association and create a bridge between LifeSmarts and real life for graduating LifeSmarts participants. We look forward to introducing our Alumni Advisors at Nationals in April. If you are interested in being part of the Alumni Advisory Board, please send an email to [LifeSmartsAlumni@nclnet.org](mailto:LifeSmartsAlumni@nclnet.org).

### **Program Updates**

Nationals is going virtual! Please mark your calendars for April 17-19, 2021. This year's event features winning 2020 and 2021 teams and will be our biggest event ever. We need your help as volunteers to support the hundreds of students and educators attending. We will host live team competitions, buzzer matches, and fun team-building activities. Please reach out to Elena Robertson at [elenar@nclnet.org](mailto:elenar@nclnet.org) to volunteer for the virtual event.

State Competitions are underway this week. North Dakota State Coordinator Crystal Kraft hosted an in-person championship February 3, and next week LifeSmarts National Staff will assist the Missouri State Coordinators, Donna Sharpe and Linda Cumpston, in hosting the virtual Missouri JV and Varsity competitions using Zoom and a virtual buzzer system. Teams from across the country will be competing over the next six weeks in a variety of ways.

LifeSmarts is focusing educational efforts on first generation college students. New LifeSmarts content will focus on selecting the right fit for post-secondary education, applying for scholarships and student loans, and purchasing a car. We are thrilled to partner with Toyota on this new initiative, and we may have some questions for you! We would love to hear what resources have helped you the most, and what pro tips you would pass along to younger alumni.

Blast from the Past: Were you with us in Pittsburgh? LifeSmarts state champion captains are in the photo below. Can you believe that is already four years ago!?



Let's stay in touch! Please reach out to me if I can answer any questions. And please consider volunteering this year for our first-ever virtual National LifeSmarts Championship!

Best regards,

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