

Press Release



Yesenia Castro wins National Youth Leadership Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMSHA/CSAP FAITH & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PARTNERS PROGRAM

Grantee wins Faith Leadership Award for the State of Oregon and National Youth Leadership Award for Outstanding Efforts in HIV Prevention

March 4, 2008—We at McFarland & Associates are pleased to know that the programs that we support are making a difference in their communities and their good work is being recognized by their communities and around the country. McFarland's SAMHSA/CSAP grantee, The Hood River County Community for Children and Families, received the **Faith Leadership Award in Prevention** for the State of Oregon. In addition, youth member Yesenia Castro was chosen as the **National Youth Leader** by SAMHSA and CADCA for her efforts in drug and HIV prevention at the conference last week. Yesenia does peer to peer presentations on HIV, alcohol and binge drinking, tobacco and meth, has helped to develop the billboard and theater trailer messages, and serves as a role model for other teens.

Reverend Delavago Scruggs serves as the Senior Project Director for the Faith & Community Initiatives Partners Program. In 2004, The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse & Prevention (CSAP) awarded McFarland & Associates a five year contract to work with faith and community based organizations across the country. The contract is primarily in substance abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention strategy development and funding opportunities. In 2005, McFarland & Associates through CSAP funding made sub-contract awards to 32 Faith and Community-based organization's from across the country in the amount of \$25,000 each. In October 2006 the pool of 32 grantees was increased to 68 grantees. As of February 2008, the grantee pool has grown to include 40 organizations from 34 states.