

South View High student earns \$500 scholarship with distracted driving video

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Say "distracted driving" and the image that often comes to mind is a teenager texting while driving.

But South View High School junior Joseph Giusto said he doesn't think young people are the biggest part of the problem.

"I think it's more the adults that we need to target," said Joseph, who is 17. "I don't believe they're used to it because they didn't have cellphones and things like that when they were in high school."

Recently, Joseph put his thoughts about distracted driving in a short video. The 30-second clip earned the student a \$500 scholarship as a semifinalist in a "Drive Smart: No Distractions, No Excuses" contest sponsored by The Wireless Foundation.

"Joseph's video underscored how little time it takes when you're driving distracted to cause an accident," said Stephanie Mathews O'Keefe, a spokeswoman for The Wireless Foundation, in a press release.

Joseph's video, which he narrated himself, is titled "5 Seconds." It opens with a series of statistics:

"It only takes five seconds for 500 lightning bolts to hit the ground. For 21 babies to be born. For 2,750 hot dogs to be eaten. And for your life to be lost by distracted driving."

The video then fades to a picture of a crashed car and more statistics: "3,328 people killed in 2012. 23 percent involve a cellphone."

Then Joseph wraps up the presentation with a plea: "So put down the phone. Put down the drink. And turn down the music. Visit drivesmartnow.com."

Up for a Challenge



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Joseph Giusto, a 16-year-old South View High School junior, who was a semi-finalist in a contest about the dangers of distracted driving.

