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MEET OUR STAFF

BETTY ALDWORTH
Executive Director

STACIA COSNER ’05*
Deputy Director

DREW STROMBERG ’09
Program Director

LAUREN PADGETT
Development Officer

JAKE AGLIATA ’11
Regional Outreach Coordinator

SCOTT CECIL ’10
Regional Outreach Coordinator

FRANCES FU ’11
Regional Outreach Coordinator

TYLER WILLIAMS ’11
Regional Outreach Coordinator

BRIAN ORTIZ ’13
California Campus Coordinator

* Throughout this report and on our website, you’ll notice a year following many names. This indicates the first year that person got involved with SSDP. Think of it as a person’s “SSDP Class of” year.
Dear Supporter:

In the 2014-2015 school year, Students for Sensible Drug Policy took a deep look inward. What makes us great, and how do we best foster that? Which facets of our work should we be nurturing to encourage growth in our intellectually and experientially diverse network of young change-makers? Most importantly, how can we prepare both our organization and our student members for a transformational future?

Answering those questions led us through a year of bolstering foundations. We expanded our outreach team to provide more intensive support to students. Our focus on fundraising grew our reserves and positioned us to invest further in the student network. More careful analysis of engagement and action helped us enhance our best characteristics and revealed new strategies and tactics to inspire students to become more active.

We cultivated an experimental culture, from campus to headquarters. Little experiments and investments in our chapter network resulted in big differences in student engagement which you’ll read about in this report. We also piloted three big new programs: the Campus Campaign, which leverages interest in specific ballot initiatives to develop long-term student advocates; the Alumni Association, connecting Alumni with each other and with students to strengthen engagement through mentorship; and the Career Services program, to formalize and expand students’ professional opportunities after graduation.

As we look to that transformational future, we’ll be taking what we’ve learned over the seventeen years since we were founded -- but especially last year -- to further enrich the SSDP experience for our student members. Continued outreach staff expansion will support the growing network. Targeted investments in facilitating student participation will raise the volume of the student voice at the United Nations and as we prepare for the 2016 election. And a new gamification initiative will incentivize the advocacy and skills development that have always made SSDP “the breeding ground for agents of social change.”

In the following pages, you’ll read about how your investment in SSDP’s student network is transforming drug policy reform. This new look at our work is coming at just the right time! Across the globe, communities are recognizing the horrors wrought by the War on Drugs and its endless failings. Reforms are taking hold from the campus to the United Nations, and with your continuing support, Students for Sensible Drug Policy members and alumni will be there to define a more sensible future.

Sensibly,

Betty Aldworth
MEET THE BOARD

*AMANDA MULLER ’10
Chair of the Board of Directors
Florida State University

*LAUREN MENDELSOHN ’09
Vice Chair of the Board of Directors
University of California Irvine Law School

*JURRIAAN VAN DEN HURK ’10
Secretary of the Board of Directors
Virginia Commonwealth University

*EVAN EISENBERG ’12
University of South Florida

*ALEC FOSTER ’10
New York University

RAFAEL GONZALEZ ’14
Northwest Vista College

STEPHANIE IZQUIETA ’13
SUNY Binghamton

VILMARIE NARLOCH ’09
Roosevelt University

SARAH MERRIGAN ’13
University of Nebraska Omaha

REID MURDOCH ’13
University of Michigan Law School

JEREMY SHARP ’13
University of North Georgia

*KAT MURTI ’09
Cato Institute

ERIC STERLING ’98
Criminal Justice Policy Foundation

EVAN NISON ’09
Terra Tech Corp, Compassion & Choices
New Jersey

*RANDY HENCKEN ’05
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Seasteading Institute

*DAN GOLDMAN ’99
Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees
New York Cannabis Alliance

*SHAWN HELLER ’98
Treasurer of the Board of Trustees
Social Justice Law Collective

KRIS KRANE ’98
Trustee
4Front Advisors

SHALEEN TITLE ’02
Trustee
THC Staffing Group

*Members of the Board of Directors who were elected prior to September 28, 2014 composed the initial Board of Trustees and are indicated with an asterisk.
Dear Supporter:

When I attended my first Students for Sensible Drug Policy event as a college sophomore in 2010, I had no idea the impact this organization would have on my future and the exciting career path my SSDP involvement would lead to. Five years later, as Chair of the Board of Directors, I could not be more proud of the positive impact SSDP has had on thousands of young people; the critical role SSDP has played in drug policy reform victories; and the growth welcomed and embraced in the last year by SSDP staff, board members, students, and supporters like you.

Last fall, more than 400 students and alumni attended the International SSDP Conference where we also hold the annual SSDP Congress. There, student chapter members voted overwhelmingly in support of amending SSDP’s bylaws to expand the size of the Board of Directors and create a Board of Trustees. This structure has allowed our student board members more time to provide additional assistance and support to individual chapters, while ensuring the stability and future of SSDP with the newly created Board of Trustees.

Our staff of nine rockstar individuals is larger than it has ever been. Women hold the top four executive leadership positions in the organization, serving as the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. This may very well mark the first time a drug policy reform organization has had women in these 4 influential roles; it certainly portends a more diverse and equitable future for the drug policy reform movement.

Drug policy reform made history this year as Alaska, Oregon, and the District of Columbia voted to regulate the recreational use of cannabis. A record number of states have enacted some variation of 911 Good Samaritan or naloxone access policies to save lives through overdose prevention, bringing the number of participating states to 39. In North Carolina alone, over 500 lives have been saved in a little over a year through the distribution of naloxone to first responders, treatment providers, and the friends and families of those at risk of witnessing or experiencing an opiate-related overdose.

With your continued support, it won’t be long before all 50 states have adopted such life-saving legislation.

Once apathetic about politics and intimidated by leadership opportunities, I now join thousands of other SSDP student and alumni members who dream about running for office or leading a harm reduction organization to improve lives through compassionate, just, and sensible policies. The knowledge, skills, and experience we have gained through SSDP have been instrumental in our professional and personal growth, and none of this would have been possible without your generous support. Your investment in SSDP directly empowers young activists around the world to become leaders in the drug policy reform movement and continue to create real change in the fight to end the Drug War.

Stay Sensible,

Amanda Muller ’10
A total of 41 students, alumni, and allies attended this year’s conference, themed “Looking Ahead to 2016,” with particular emphasis on the 2016 marijuana legalization campaign in California. Conference workshops discussed topics such as learning from past legalization measures, students’ role in legalization, emerging careers in the cannabis industry, and mass incarceration and Proposition 47.

California State University Fullerton
Fullerton, CA

Located in the precinct with the highest percentage “yes” votes for DC’s Initiative 71, George Washington University played host to this year’s Mid-Atlantic conference in Washington, DC. With seventy-five students representing nineteen chapters, the conference highlighted the successful Initiative 71 campaign to legalize marijuana in the nation’s capital and drug policy activism beyond marijuana legalization, such as getting involved with nightlife harm reduction and the Amend the RAVE Act Campaign.

George Washington University
Washington, DC

Twenty-one SSDP chapters came together at the University of Michigan, where the undergraduate and law school chapters collaborated to host the 2015 Midwest Regional Conference, with eighty-five students in attendance. Speakers included SSDP staff members Stacia Cosner ’05 and Scott Cecil ’10, University of Michigan chapter leaders Brian Kardell ’13 and Reid Murdoch ’13, and former United States Deputy “Drug Czar” Dr. John Vereen. Sessions included workshops on naloxone training and how to start a legal naloxone distribution program, how drug prohibition negatively impacts families and children, an art & activism and ‘zine making workshop, and knowing your rights in police encounters.

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor, MI
Boasting the most student attendees of the 2015 Regional Conferences, ninety-four students from ten different SSDP chapters gathered at the University of Connecticut for a conference that focused on intersectionality and coalition building. Topics discussed included combating sexism in advocacy, careers in the cannabis industry, lobbying and bill-drafting, utilizing campus media and the Internet to amplify students’ voices, and a skills and resources exchange workshop.

University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT

College of Charleston (CofC) hosted members of eight SSDP chapters from four states for a conference focused on advancing drug policy reform and harm reduction in Southern states. Speakers included SSDP Executive Director Betty Aldworth, Chair of the Board Amanda Muller ’10, FAMM State Policy Director Greg Newburn, North Carolina Harm Reduction Action Center Executive Director Robert Childs, and clinical psychiatrist Dr. Mithoeffer.

College of Charleston
Charleston, SC

Building on the explosive growth of SSDP in Ireland, this year’s Irish conference was hosted by the Dublin City University (DCU) chapter and featured several prominent speakers from Ireland and throughout Europe. Invited speakers included John Wilson, a former Garda who is noted for blowing the whistle on widespread corruption within Ireland’s national police force; Mark Fitzsimmons, a blind cannabis activist; Karl Gill, an elected member of the county council in Dublin; and Dr. John Collins, the project coordinator of the LSE IDEAS International Drug Policy Project at the London School of Economics. Student speakers included DCU SSDP president Dan Kirby ’14 and National University of Ireland, Galway SSDP president Ciarán Maher ’12. In total, sixty students from three different Irish chapters attended the conference.

Dublin City University
Dublin, Ireland
“IT’S BEEN NOTHING BUT A PURE JOY WATCHING SSDP GROW INTO SUCH AN INFLUENTIAL AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION SINCE WE STARTED THE FIRST CHAPTER AT RIT BACK IN 1998. STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY HAS HAD AN ENORMOUSLY POSITIVE IMPACT ON NOT ONLY MY LIFE BUT ALSO ON THE THOUSANDS OF ALUMNI WHO HAVE BUILT IT INTO WHAT IT IS TODAY, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY SSDP’S WORK. I COULDN’T BE MORE PROUD.”

Shea Gunther ’97
Publisher/Executive Editor, 4Front Publishing
SSDP2014

In September, we held our most successful conference to date! SSDP2014 brought together 400 students, alumni, and supporters for a weekend of learning, training, and networking in Washington, DC. We also rewarded outstanding achievements during our awards ceremony, and danced the night away with old and new friends. If you missed the conference or just want to relive some of the amazing memories, watch our short highlight video and check out our compilation of SSDP2014 resources and information at SSDP.ORG/SSDP2014.

The day after SSDP2014, more than 120 trained and prepared students took to Capitol Hill for meetings with more than 55 Members of Congress or their staffs, representing the critical youth voice in support of drug policy reform.

A first-of-its-kind signature event for SSDP, A Sensory Celebration featured an animation program for the evening compiled by Denver Digerati, an initiative for innovative, motion-based artists and their work. The extraordinary, high-caliber program was grown by Ideal 420 Soil and produced by Edible Events, raising critical dollars to support SSDP’s work.
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

We were proud to present the following awards at SSDP2014:

SCOTT & CYAN BANISTER CAMPUS CHANGE AWARD
Portland State University

CHANGE BEYOND CAMPUS AWARD
University of North Georgia

MORGAN LESKO ONLINE ACTIVISM AWARD
Irish SSDP chapters

FUNDRAISING AWARD
Arizona State University

STUART ABELSON GOODWILL AWARD
Libra Foundation

RIISING STAR AWARD (CHAPTER)
University of Cincinnatti

RIISING STAR AWARD (INDIVIDUAL)
Eric Gudz ’14

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD
University of Connecticut | Virginia Commonwealth University

DAVE BORDEN FRIEND OF SSDP AWARD
The ArcView Group

OUTSTANDING ALUM AWARD
Brooke Gilbert ’09 | Mike Liszewski ’07

GRACE UNDER FIRE AWARD
2013-2014 Board of Directors

OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACTIVIST AWARD
Rose Bono ’10 | Jeremy Sharp ’13

UNSUNG HERO AWARD
Kris Lotlikar ’98

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Troy Dayton ’98

RANDY HENCKEN AWARD FOR SAVING OUR ASSES
Stacia Cosner ’05 | Sam Tracy ’09
“WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?’ IS A QUESTION OFTEN ASKED DURING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DRUG POLICY REFORM, BUT RARELY ANSWERED BY THE ‘CHILDREN’ THEMSELVES. **MY INVOLVEMENT WITH SSDP HAS ALLOWED ME TO REPRESENT THE YOUTH VOICE IN DRUG POLICY DEBATES AT THE STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, ENSURING THAT THE VERY POLICIES MEANT TO PROTECT US DO NOT END UP HARMING US INSTEAD.”

Sarah Merrigan ’13
Student, University of Nebraska Omaha
During the summer of 2014, SSDP’s permanent staff expanded from 3 to 6 when we brought on alumni members Scott Cecil ’10 and Jake Agliata ’11 in the outreach department, and Lauren Padgett as our new Development Officer. In the 2015-2016 school year, chapters will be supported by two additional Outreach Coordinators, Frances Fu ’11 and Tyler Williams ’11. We’re also grateful for the support of the three contract staff who helped us pilot new programs: Colin Fitzgibbon ’13, Garrett Reuscher, and Dylan Schwartz.

Keen observers will note that the number of campuses where we had a presence in the 2014-2015 school year was about the same as previous years. But stronger support from our expanded staff and several new programs resulted in improvements across the chapter lifespan. Not only are more students interested in starting up an SSDP chapter on their campus, but more of those individuals are successfully starting chapters and those chapters are more likely to continue despite the transitory nature of college leadership changes. At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, 50 more campuses have an SSDP presence than ever before, and those chapters are prepared to accomplish more than ever, on campus and beyond.

In addition to electing new student board members, our annual SSDP Congress overwhelmingly approved a proposal to restructure our Board of Directors to better suit the organization’s needs. We sought to balance the integral student-run nature of the organization with the need to bolster our resources. After months of research and deliberation, the Board of Directors proposed creation of a Board of Trustees, a delegated body of seasoned professionals and experienced board members to collaboratively manage organizational governance functions. The Board of Directors will remain at least two-thirds students, and students are represented on the Board of Trustees.
When we heard about the 43 students abducted by cartels in Mexico, we knew we had to do something about it. In Washington, DC, we held a vigil for the Iguala students outside of the Mexican embassy, and a spokesperson from the embassy joined us to express their shared concern. Elsewhere across the globe, dozens of SSDP chapters held candlelight vigils or organized demonstrations to draw attention to the ruthless tactics that result from an underground market.

This year, we expanded our network to 12 new states with the creation of SSDP chapters in Hawaii, Delaware, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Montana. This brings us to 47 states in the US where our students are actively working to end the War on Drugs. In addition, we continued to grow outside of US borders with the creation of new chapters in New Zealand, Honduras, Mexico, and Jamaica. Including our existing presence in Ireland, Nigeria, and the United States, this brings us to 7 countries with active SSDP chapters, making our global presence the strongest it has ever been.

Meeting the opportunities presented by modern drug policy reform and student organizing means taking a newly entrepreneurial approach to our work. We have undergone transformational changes that are preparing us to approach these next years with all the strength, responsiveness, and ingenuity they will require. New and bold ideas are aired, risks are appropriately calculated, and thoughtful investments are made in piloting the best ideas for developing ripe opportunities. Learn more about our three biggest new programs on the following pages, and look forward to more in the years to come.
Students for Sensible Drug Policy’s Campus Campaign increases SSDP presence and involvement in targeted geographic regions in conjunction with policy reform initiatives. Drug policy (and intersecting) reform initiatives require strong youth voter turnout, campus-based education and GOTV efforts, and grassroots activation to ensure victory. The Campus Campaign bolsters that support while laying the foundation for future engagement in both implementation and further reform through active campus-based recruitment, facilitated cultivation of advocacy, and thoughtful post-election transitional activities.

In 2012, SSDP substantially contributed to the success of Colorado’s Amendment 64 by placing 18,000 educational phone calls to voters and making thousands more contacts on the ground, but it was clear that with a modest investment, our student network could have a significantly increased impact. In 2014 we hired full-time, short-term Campus Coordinators in both DC and Florida who:

- facilitated recruitment, outreach, education, and GOTV activities for SSDP’s existing chapters in each location;
- developed new chapters on targeted campuses; created a lasting increase in the number of SSDP chapters, the engagement and activities of those chapters, and the number of members in each;
- and maintained open and productive communication and collaboration between SSDP’s local chapters, the SSDP national office, and the local campaigns.

Our success in 2014 proved that the Campus Campaign works: we met nearly every goal we set and exceeded most by orders of magnitude. In 2016, we will further refine and expand this program to achieve even more aggressive goals. If this campaign is fully funded by December 31, 2015, four or more Campus Coordinators will be working across the nation to ensure that the reforms we’ve been fighting so hard to achieve continue to expand — bringing justice, compassion, and sensible drug policy to more and more states through youth- and student-centered action.

For campaign updates and to contribute, visit ssdp.org/cc.
SSDP’s Career Services Program seeks to expand meaningful services to students and facilitate students’ increased engagement in policy reform — and the legal marijuana industry as one vector supporting that reform — through improved preparation for and access to post-graduation employment opportunities.

**ADVOCACY + INDUSTRY JOB BOARD**
SSDP hosts the first comprehensive jobs board for mission-related organizations, legal marijuana businesses, and regulatory agencies. The jobs board offers employers the opportunity to get the word out about jobs to SSDP members and the public alike, as well as a method to easily identify SSDP members and alumni in the often-overwhelming pile of résumés that comes along with any job opening. Students and alumni now have a single go-to source for jobs of particular interest, and the ability to make their résumés stand out from the crowd.

**ADVOCACY + INDUSTRY JOB FAIR**
The Advocacy + Industry Job Fair at SSDP2014 brought students and alumni together with top employers who understand that there’s something special about having an SSDP alumnus on their team. At the SSDP booth, students could sign up for practice interviews, submit résumés for review, and learn more about internships.

**SSDP INTERN PROGRAM**
SSDP internships recruit, place, supervise, provide basic workplace training, and manage logistics for interns placed with companies and organizations with mission overlap with SSDP. Examples including direct-service harm reduction organizations, drug policy reform organizations, and legal marijuana businesses. Interns receive assistance in preparing for and successfully completing internships; companies and organizations receive assistance developing internship job descriptions, selecting interns, managing interns throughout the course of the internship, and completing assessments and other requirements of the program.

**COACHING SERVICES**
Often, the hardest part of getting a job is knowing how to sell yourself, and the hardest part of succeeding in a career is having the right mentor to guide you when things get tough. Coaching services aid students and alumni in the early part of their careers with résumé writing assistance, mock interviews, and mentorship for first- and second-year alumni as they navigate the beginnings of their careers.

**FIRST YEAR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM RESULTS**
This year, 46 students applied for, and 12 successfully completed, internships with one of our host companies:

- 4Front Publishing
- Harm Reduction Action Center
- Highland Medical Packaging
- iComply
- Rose and Thorn Election Technologies, LLC
“IN 1998, I WAS JUST STARTING TO WAKE UP TO THE HORRORS OF THE WAR ON DRUGS. A PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRAD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, CHICAGO, I HAD JUST LEARNED ABOUT THE PROVISION IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT THAT PROHIBITED PEOPLE WITH DRUG OFFENSES FROM OBTAINING MONEY FOR COLLEGE. THIS SEEMED SO UNNECESSARY AND OUTRAGEOUS, BUT I FEARED THAT COMING OUT IN FAVOR OF CHANGING DRUG POLICIES WOULD STIGMATIZE ME. I DIDN’T KNOW THAT OTHERS FELT THIS WAY ABOUT THESE MORALLY DRIVEN POLICIES. THEN I HEARD ABOUT A NEW ORGANIZATION, STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY, AND THEIR FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE. I ATTENDED, AND IT CHANGED MY LIFE. I KNEW I WAS NOT ALONE AND THAT MY OUTRAGE WAS SHARED BY OTHER INTELLIGENT, MOTIVATED PEOPLE. IT WAS THE START OF A COMMUNITY THAT BECAME A MOVEMENT AND IS NOW A FORCE. SSDP IS THE BREEDING GROUND FOR AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE.”

Amanda Reiman ’98
Marijuana Law and Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance
Being part of a Students for Sensible Drug Policy chapter is a defining part of many students’ college experiences. The SSDP Alumni Association aims to provide a framework for SSDPers to continue developing as leaders and professionals, advocate for an end to the drug war, and stay connected to their peers who share that passion after leaving school. This program is led by the deputy director and developed by the Alumni Committee of the board, focusing on four components:

**CONNECTION.** Alumni-managed networking events and networking groups on social media platforms connect alumni within states or regions with each other, regardless of age or school of graduation.

**MENTORSHIP.** Alumni have opportunities to enter into formal one-to-one mentoring relationships with current students as well as be appointed to “chapter adviser” roles to provide a consistent presence for chapters, which by their nature have transitioning leadership.

**ADVOCACY.** Alumni are encouraged to participate in actions and events alongside the student network.

**PHILANTHROPY.** Through the Sensible Society, fundraising at events, and other opportunities, Alumni are able to support the work of SSDP and ensure future cohorts of students are able to continue raising the youth voice against punitive and dangerous drug policies.

To see a list of current members, and to learn more about the Alumni Association, visit ssdp.org/alumni.

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**HEARTLAND REGION**

(P) Amber Langston ’02 University of Missouri Columbia  
[VP] Robert Pountz ’08 University of Arkansas Fayetteville  
Casey Henderson ’11 University of Arkansas Fayetteville  
Allison Holmes ’13 University of Nebraska Omaha

**MID-ATLANTIC REGION**

(P) Rachelle Yeung ’11 University of Colorado School of Law  
[VP] Mike Liszewski ’07 University of the District of Columbia School of Law  
[S] Mikayla Hellwich ’10 University of Maryland  
Jake Agliata ’11 Dickinson College  
Zachary Brown ’08 University of Maryland  
Scott Cecil ’10 Northern Arizona University  
Silvie Chang ’14 James Madison University  
Kian Cochrane ’06 University of Maryland  
Stacia Cosner ’05 University of Maryland  
Stephen Duke ’09 University of Arkansas Fayetteville  
Shamus Durac ’07 Georgetown University Law Center  
Amos Irwin ’03 Amherst College  
Justin Kander ’09 University of Maryland  
Morgan Lesko ’02 University of Maryland  
Kris Lotlikar ’98 Rochester Institute of Technology  
Aaron Marcus ’98 Hampshire College  
Aria Mildice ’14 George Washington University  
Kat Murti ’09 University of California Berkeley  
Heather Ness ’07 University of Maryland  
Damien Nichols ’03 University of Maryland  
Bob Nichols ’05 Georgetown University Law Center  
Christina Pickeral ’08 University of Maryland  
Nick Renzler ’03 Brown University  
Julie Roberts ’10 Northeastern University School of Law  
Clark Ruper ’05 University of Michigan  
Thom Silverstein ’05 College of William and Mary  
Edward Spriggs ’07 University of Maryland  
Lucy Stanus ’09 Virginia Commonwealth University

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**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY THE NUMBERS**

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<th>128</th>
<th>70</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEMBERS</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>SCHOOLS</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>CITIES</td>
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</table>
*Eric Sterling ’98 Honorary
Drew Stromberg ’09 West Virginia University
Jurriaan van den Hurk ’10 Virginia Commonwealth University

**Michael Simpson ’05
Avi Scher ’09
Kevin Oliveira ’10
James O’Gorman ’07
Evan Nison ’09
Dan MacCombie ’04
Nick Kennedy ’11
Jennifer Janichek-Krane ’03
Stephanie Izquieta ’13
Shea Gunther ’97
Dan Goldman ’99
Gennady Forrest ’09
Jag Davies ’01
Brian Coughlin ’10
Emily Cotter ’11
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Avi Scher ’09
Michael Simpson ’05

**Sara Arnold ’11
Tom Angell ’00
Brown University
Sara Arnold ’11 Honorary
Eric Casey ’10
University of Rhode Island
Emily Cotter ’11
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New College of Florida
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New York University
Gennady Forrest ’09
Northeastern University
Dan Goldman ’99
University of Wisconsin Madison
Shea Gunther ’97
Rochester Institute of Technology
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Binghamton University
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Roosevelt University
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University of Connecticut
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American University
Brandon Levey ’09
University of Maryland
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University of Connecticut

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James O’Gorman ’07
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Kevin Oliveira ’10
University of Connecticut
Avi Scher ’09
Rutgers University
Michael Simpson ’05
University of Maine Farmington

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James O’Gorman ’07
University of Maine Farmington
Kevin Oliveira ’10
University of Connecticut
Avi Scher ’09
Rutgers University
Michael Simpson ’05
University of Maine Farmington
STUDENT PROFILE
“I FOUND OUT ABOUT SSDP JUST LAST YEAR, AND I HELPED SET UP THE FIRST CHAPTER IN DUBLIN. IN THIS SHORT TIME WE HAVE HOSTED RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS AT THE ANNUAL SSDP IRELAND CONFERENCE AND RAN A SUCCESSFUL ‘SUPPORT DON’T PUNISH’ CAMPAIGN WHERE WE GOT THE GOVERNMENT MINISTER FOR DRUG STRATEGY TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT DECRIMINALISATION OF DRUGS. WE ARE NOW PREPARING AN INVITED DOCUMENT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE IRISH PARLIAMENT ON DECRIMINALISATION. SSDP IN IRELAND HAS REALLY TAKEN OFF IN THE PAST YEAR. I AM SO PROUD TO BE A PART OF THIS MOVEMENT AND AM VERY EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE!”

Dan Kirby ’14
Student, Dublin City University
CHANGING DRUG POLICIES ON CAMPUS...

THREE NEW LIFE-SAVING 911 GOOD SAMARITAN POLICIES ENACTED

SSDP chapters at Dickinson College (April 2015), Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (October 2014), and Western Kentucky University pursued and enacted life-saving campus-wide 911 Good Samaritan policies.

ROWAN UNIVERSITY

November 2014: Rowan University held their 4th annual Box City Protest to raise awareness about dorm eviction policies on their campus. This year’s protest received state-wide media attention, calling into question the legitimacy of dorm eviction policies at Rowan and other campuses in New Jersey.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

March 2015: George Washington University chapter leader Nick Watkins ’14 successfully ran for student senate on a drug policy platform, pledging to bring a Good Samaritan Policy to campus as well as update GW’s marijuana policy to reflect the new laws in DC.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

March 2015: Our University of Connecticut chapter worked with student government to pass a statement of position in support of legalizing marijuana and endorsing Connecticut House Bill 6703 and House Bill 6473, which would do just that. The statement, which was written by chapter leader Tyler Williams ’11 and sponsored by SSDP chapter member and undergraduate senator Domenica Ghanem ’13, states that ending marijuana prohibition is in the best interests of the University community.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

March 2015: The National University of Ireland, Galway SSDP chapter successfully pushed for a student-wide referendum on the legalization of cannabis. The referendum, which passed overwhelmingly in March, mandates that the NUIG Students’ Union actively campaign for legalization moving forward. Other Irish SSDP chapters hope to duplicate this campaign on their campuses with the ultimate goal of getting the Union of Students in Ireland, the national representative body for university and college students, to endorse cannabis legalization.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA
Did you know that GW doesn’t allow the possession or use of medical marijuana on campus? Current policy doesn’t even distinguish between recreational and medicinal use. Let’s create proper protections for card-holding patients on campus who need safe access to their medicine.

MARIJUANA/ALCOHOL EQUALIZATION
The possession and use of marijuana was recently legalized in the District and has been decriminalized for some time now. I think it’s time we ease punishments for using a relatively harmless drug on campus. Let’s work to implement a marijuana/alcohol equalization policy to protect students from outdated and punitive measures.
Colorado

Fall 2014: The University of Denver Law School chapter worked with marijuana policy and industry professionals to ensure that Amendment 64 was implemented faithfully and functionally.

Pennsylvania

October 2014: Students from our Temple University chapter testified in support of the decriminalization of marijuana in Philadelphia, which passed overwhelmingly.

February 2015: Several Pennsylvania SSDP chapters from Dickinson College, West Chester University, and Pennsylvania State University met with elected officials during a lobby day in Harrisburg in support of SB 3, which would legalise and regulate medical marijuana in Pennsylvania. The bill passed the Senate and is awaiting a vote in the state House.

Louisiana

April 2015: SSDPers at Tulane University lobbied in support of HB14 which would eliminate jail time for marijuana possession and HB720 which would approve medical marijuana in Louisiana. Chapter Leader Emma Tuttleman-Krieger ’13 is now working with Common Sense NOLA to help push for a local initiative to legalize marijuana in New Orleans.

Delaware

May 2015: The President of our University of Delaware chapter provided testimony to the State House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee in support of HB 39, a bill that would decriminalize marijuana in Delaware. The legislation passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Markell in June.

Rhode Island

June 2015: Through a newly founded organization, Protect Families First, students and alumni in Rhode Island led the push for a marijuana legalization bill which passed in the Rhode Island House. University of Rhode Island SSDP chapter leader Emily Cotter ’11 provided oral testimony on the legislation, and several other members of the chapter attended the committee meeting in support.

Connecticut

Spring 2015: The University of Connecticut chapter met with elected state officials about House Bill 6703, which would legalize marijuana in Connecticut. They also contributed to the successful vote on HB 5780, which legalizes industrial hemp farming in Connecticut, by phone banking and urging elected officials to support the legislation.

Virginia

January 2015: Several students from Northern Virginia Community College Woodbridge SSDP and George Washington University SSDP participated in Virginia NORML’s lobby day for marijuana decriminalization in January. Separately, Rose Bono ’10 from Virginia Commonwealth University SSDP spearheaded a statewide medical amnesty coalition, Virginians for Safe Reporting of Overdoses, dedicated to advancing a 911 Good Samaritan Policy. Through meeting with elected officials, providing testimony, and rallying allies in Virginia, a limited medical amnesty bill was passed in May 2015. The group remains committed to advocating for a more complete medical amnesty policy.

Nebraska

March 2015: Students from SSDP chapters at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of Nebraska College of Law lobbied for and testified about state legislation regarding the medical use of cannabis and expanded access to naloxone. While the Legislature tabled the medical cannabis bill until the next session, a bill allowing for a pilot study of cannabidiol treatment for seizure disorders was passed with an amendment allowing naloxone to be prescribed over the counter. SSDP members also supported a Good Samaritan Policy to protect those under 21 from charges when they seek help for an alcohol-related emergency.
“IT’S IMPERATIVE THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS BUILD POWER IN THE REALM OF DRUG POLICY. AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE AMONG THE MOST AT RISK FOR MASS INCARCERATION BECAUSE DRUG SENTENCING LAWS ARE DESIGNED OBLIVIOUS TO THEIR IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES OR, WORSE, WITH MALICIOUS INTENT. SSDP HAS GIVEN ME PRECIOUS CONNECTIONS AND RESOURCES TO CHALLENGE MASS INCARCERATION FROM MANY ANGLES.”

Quentin Savage ’14
Student, Berea College
American University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Barry University
Baylor University
Berea College
Boise State University
Bowling Green State University
Bradley University
Brooklyn Law School
Brown University
Bucknell University
Butler University
California State University Fullerton
California State University Long Beach
California State University Los Angeles
Carroll University
Case Western Reserve University
Central Piedmont Community College
Chapman University
Chemeketa Community College
City College of New York Baruch
Clemson University
College of Charleston
College of DuPage
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia College
Columbia University
Columbus State University
Cornell College
Cornell University
CUNY School of Law
Dartmouth College
Depaul University
Diablo Valley College
Dickinson College
Duke University
East Carolina University
East Tennessee State University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Eastern Michigan University
Eckerd College
Elkhorn South High School
Estrella Mountain Community College
Everett Community College
Fitchburg State University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Frances W Parker High School
George Washington University Law School
Georgetown University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia State University
Glendale Community College
Goucher College
Grand Valley State University
Green Mountain College
Guilford College
Harford Community College
Harvard Law School
Henry Ford College
Houston Community College
Howard Community College
Howard University
Howard University School of Law
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University
Indiana University Purdue University Columbus
Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kent State University
Lawrence Upper School
Lewis and Clark College
Lewis and Clark Law School
Lone Star College Tomball
Louisiana Lafayette University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Manchester University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
McPherson College
Mesa Community College
Michigan State University
Mineral Area College
Missouri State University
Monarch High School
Montana State University
Morgan State University
Mount Hood Community College
Naropa University
New College of Florida
New Mexico State University
New York University
New York University Law School
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Northeastern University
Northeastern University School of Law
Northern Kentucky University
Northern Michigan University
Northern Virginia Community College Woodbridge Campus
Northwest Vista College
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Oklahoma City University
Palomar College
Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania State University Behrend
Pennsylvania State University Berks
Pensacola State College
Point Park University
Portland State University
Purdue University
Reed College
Rhodes College
Rider University
Roosevelt University
Rowan University
Rush University Medical College
Saint Charles Community College
Saint Edward’s University
Saint Louis Community College
Saint Mary’s College of Maryland
Salt Lake Community College
Sarah Lawrence College
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
South Dakota State University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Illinois University
Spring Hill College
Stanford University
Stephen F Austin State University
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Stony Brook
SUNY Geneseo
Temple University
Texas A&M University School of Law
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The Evergreen State College
The George Washington University
Triton College
Tufts University
Tulane University
University at Albany
University at Buffalo
University of Akron
University of Alabama Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of Baltimore School of Law
University of California Berkeley
University of California Berkeley Law
University of California Davis
University of California Hastings Law School
University of California Irvine School of Law
University of California San Francisco
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
University of Central Arkansas
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver Law School
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
University of Houston
University of Houston Clear Lake
University of Houston Downtown
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Maine Farmington
University of Maryland
University of Maryland Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Miami (OH)
University of Michigan
University of Michigan Law School
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska College of Law
University of Nebraska Lincoln
University of Nebraska Omaha
University of Nevada Reno
University of New Mexico
University of New Mexico School of Law
University of North Carolina Asheville
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of North Georgia
University of North Texas
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rhode Island
University of San Diego School of Law
University of South Carolina
University of South Dakota
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Southern Mississippi
University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Tyler
University of Texas Austin
University of Texas El Paso
University of Texas of the Permian Basin
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Toledo
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin Madison
University of Wyoming
Valencia Community College
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wayne State University
Wesleyan University
West Chester University
West Virginia University
Western Kentucky University
Western Washington University
Whittier Law School
Williams College

INTERNATIONAL

IRELAND
Cork Institute of Technology
Dublin City University
National University of Ireland Galway
Trinity College Dublin
University College Cork

NIGERIA
Federal University of Agriculture

MEXICO
Universidad de Guadalajara

HONDURAS
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras

NEW ZEALAND
University of Auckland
University of Otago
Victoria University of Wellington

JAMAICA
University of the West Indies
I support psychedelic education because psychedelics have helped me work through my depression.
“SSDP has helped me channel my passion for psychedelic medicine into a viable career path. Psychedelics are demonstrated to be effective medicines for treating psychiatric disorders in conjunction with therapy. As a nation with a large percentage of citizens suffering from one or more mental health issues, it is crucial that we prioritize further research into the healing potential of psychedelics.”

Jennifer Purdon ’14
Student, University of Connecticut
“I’m extremely hopeful that people will be informed on the law, and when situations arise or medical attention is needed ... they’ll do the right thing and call for help,” [Jeremy Sharp] said. With the first of the academic year right around the corner, Sharp and the University of North Georgia Students for Sensible Drug Policy have collaborated with deans and Greek life leaders to create a school-wide version of the law.

“I think it is important that we have a medical amnesty policy at the school, just because it has the potential to save lives,” Sharp said.

“New amnesty law has limited impact in area” Gainesville Times. July 21, 2014

THE HUFFINGTON POST

“Mandatory drug testing for students is deeply problematic on a number of different levels,” Aldworth said, citing the possibility of false positives and overly harsh possible consequences, like expulsion and ineligibility for student loans. Another complaint is that drug tests detect marijuana much more easily than they detect other drugs, so a student inclined to try pot could choose something more dangerous if he’s worried about a drug test.

“If we want to see a shift in the way young people interact with drugs we have to take new approaches that are based in science and compassion,” Adworth said.

“Ohio Business Groups Push Schools To Drug-Test Students” The Huffington Post, September 18, 2014

REUTERS

Washington lawmakers took a step toward legalizing the sale of marijuana in the U.S. capital on Thursday, holding a hearing on rules and taxes ahead of a referendum next week.

“It is time to end the failed experiment of marijuana prohibition. It has ... made criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens,” Stacia Cosner, deputy director of the advocacy group Students for Sensible Drug Policy, told the joint hearing of the council’s finance and business committees.

“District of Columbia panels weigh legalizing marijuana sales” Reuters. October 30, 2014

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

“Addiction is not a crime. It’s a mental illness,” said Diego Arene-Morley ’16, president of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. “It would be one thing if making drugs illegal actually stopped people from using them, but it doesn’t,” he said, likening the current popularity of marijuana and other drugs to the abundant use of alcohol during Prohibition.

Arlene-Morley said he believes marijuana’s status as a Schedule I controlled substance exaggerates the risk involved in using it — marijuana is not lethal, whereas alcohol, cigarettes and prescription painkillers are responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths nationwide every year.

The problem also disproportionately affects low-income minority groups. “Rates of drug use in Rhode Island are the same for whites and blacks, but mostly blacks are getting arrested,” Arene-Morley said. “If whites got arrested as much, drug laws would look very different.”


THE DAILY CAMPUS

When USG announced that GUARD Dogs would be disbanded, SSDP became immediately upset at this decision, said Tyler Williams, eighth semester history major and president of SSDP. “As a harm reduction organization, we felt that GUARD Dogs was one of the most important programs on campus.”

Within a week of USG telling SSDP it would take 20 volunteers to get a sober rides program started, SSDP had signed up more than what was requested, said Williams, but after producing the list of volunteers, USG informed SSDP that they would be forming a committee to examine the GUARD Dogs program before reinstating it.

“All I understand USG’s desire to improve their program, SSDP felt that it was important that safe and sober rides be widely available to the UConn community as soon as possible, so we started running them on our own,” Williams said.


rva news

“It is hard to reach active users with top-down training,” said Rose Bono, who is pursuing a master’s of public health at VCU. She led her first naloxone training session at the university in January.

“We wanted to reach students because young people are at risk, but also because harm-reduction student organizations like Students for Sensible Drug Policy at VCU spread the information to
other at-risk groups.”

Bono and Stephen Doheney worked with Karlotta van den Hurk, president of the campus chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, to organize the training at VCU.

“Beyond giving attendees the knowledge and confidence to properly handle overdose situations, I hope that events like this remind people in our community that using drugs doesn’t make a person’s life less valuable or [not] worth protecting,” van den Hurk said.

“Bill expands access to overdose-reversing drug” RVA News, February 12, 2015

**The Ithacan**

As the national view on marijuana use has become more liberal, the college’s policies regarding the protocol on marijuana violations has changed over the years.

“A first time marijuana violation used to be probation and a first time alcohol violation used to be to get a written warning, and they [Students for Sensible Drug Policy] didn’t feel that was fair,” Leary said. “We talked more about it and said that we agreed with them.”

“IC students say marijuana use often goes unpunished” The Ithacan, February 18, 2015

**Newsweek**

Betty Aldworth, executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, says her organization and its more than 250 chapters neither condemn nor condone drug use but believe it should be addressed as a public health issue and not a criminal justice one.

“If these students had access to safety measures, then we would not be in a situation where 12 young people were hospitalized and four other young people are now having their lives disrupted by being dragged into the criminal justice system,” Aldworth says. “It’s a devastating situation that is absolutely unnecessary and almost exclusively a result of our failed drug war policies.” She suggests that students have access to “drug-checking kits” that could verify the purity and potency of substances.

“Let’s be sensible about MDMA” (authored by Betty Aldworth), The Huffington Post, February 27, 2015

**The Daily Northwestern**

Students for Sensible Drug Policy held a panel Thursday to clarify misconceptions around Northwestern drug policies.

Weinberg junior Caroline Naughton, co-president of SSDP, led the discussion. She explained that one of SSDP’s main objectives is a “know your rights” component. She asked panelists Sullivan, UP Sgt. Steve Stoeckl and EPD Officer Scott Sengenberger questions based on experiences students in SSDP have had with law enforcement.

“We think it’s powerful for students to be able to spread this education to their peers,” she told The Daily. “If we clarify some of the misconceptions, this will foster a healthier relationship and make law enforcement jobs easier. It’s a two-way street.”

“Panel clarifies misconceptions about Northwestern’s drug policy” The Daily Northwestern, February 27, 2015

**The Washington Post**

Now that marijuana is legal in D.C., students at George Washington University are hoping some of the city’s new marijuana freedom trickles down to them. Two students are running for Student Association Senate seats on platforms to reform campus drug policies, calling for the private university’s administration to align its policies more with municipal government laws.

As a student senator, [SSDP Chapter Leader and Senate candidate Nick Watkins] said, he would call on the university to make the consequences for being caught with marijuana on par to that of getting in trouble for alcohol.

The third prong of Watkins’s largely drug-focused platform is to push the administration to expand its “Alcohol Medical Amnesty Program” to include drugs other than just alcohol. That policy says a student medically treated for drinking too much alcohol will not face any disciplinary action. The person that makes the call for medical help is also protected from any school repercussions.

“Pot is legal in the District. GWU students running for campus office want in.”, The Washington Post, March 4, 2015

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**
As a student I was very involved with Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a fantastic nonprofit organization with chapters at colleges all over the US and around the world. I learned a great deal as a student organizer for SSDP, and when I graduated, I wanted to continue that work. I started the Regulate Rhode Island coalition through a crowd funding campaign and eventually ended up partnering with a DC-based nonprofit called Marijuana Policy Project, which now provides funding for Regulate Rhode Island. I consider myself very fortunate and privileged to be able to do this work.

“RI PowerPlayer: Jared Moffat” Go Local Providence, March 6, 2015

THE NEWS RECORD

[UC SSDP chapter president Zef] Vesel and Johnson both said that in addition to health and wellness resources, UC needs to adopt a medical amnesty policy. The policy would protect individuals who need to report a medical emergency like alcohol poisoning, even if the person reporting were in violation of the student code of conduct.

“A Good Samaritan policy is absolutely necessary to give students the zero hesitation attitude toward calling for help,” Vesel said. “Because when somebody’s life is on the line, getting in trouble shouldn’t be something that’s preventing a call for an ambulance.”

“University of Cincinnati reviews drug, alcohol policies” The News Record, March 10, 2015

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

Holding protest signs and chanting “Don’t honor the police for disturbing the peace,” about 20 student and community activists gathered outside a room in the Student Union Building, where university police officers were honored for leading the nation in campus in-dormitory drug arrests per 1,000 students.

Tom Savide, of Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, said through a release that the award ceremony was “unconscionable.” Protesters called for fewer campus police officers; a shift of resources away from enforcing nonviolent drug offenses to serious crimes, such as sexual assault; and a new policy of three infractions instead of the current two before kicking students out of school.

“There are hundreds of students whose records have been forever tarnished by a nonviolent drug arrest. Some may have been expelled from school; in some cases, they may have been suffering from substance abuse. How can anyone celebrate that?” Savide said.


A group of SUNY New Paltz students and community activists protested a police union award ceremony Friday honoring campus cops for having the highest percentage of campus drug arrests in the nation in 2013.

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AMPLIFY, a project of SSDP, offers a voice for musicians to speak out against the failed War on Drugs, its disastrous effects upon our society and in the live music scene. Additionally, AMPLIFY gives volunteers an opportunity to connect with their community by educating and empowering them to change failed drug policies. AMPLIFY works year round to connect artists who support our mission with dedicated activists around the country to spread the message of sensible drug policy, harm reduction, and asserting citizens’ rights at live music events. In the 2014-2015 school year, they continued the growth seen in recent years, as students and volunteers engaged concert attendees at fourteen individual shows and at the Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, IL through the involvement of eight different SSDP chapters.

During these events, students and volunteers provided information on starting or joining a local SSDP chapter, supporting drug policy reform, and relevant policies already in place such as life saving Good Samaritan Laws. They also passed out “know your rights” materials and, through a partnership with DanceSafe, assisted in providing on-site harm reduction services to tens of thousands of individuals.

Four Regional Organizers based across the country were selected, trained, and supplied to assist in local outreach efforts to the live music community, spreading SSDP’s reach beyond college campuses.

Moving forward, they plan to continue their expansion by working with SSDP and other organizations to identify, develop, and promote specific drug policy campaigns related to the live music scene. In addition, they will continue their online training program which has equipped more than 50 students and non-student volunteers with the unique skills needed to AMPLIFY our message across the music scene.

For more information, visit ssdp.org/amplify.

Brian Gilbert ’09 and Brooke Gilbert ’09 address the crowd

THE AMPLIFY PROJECT BRIDGES THE WORLDS OF DRUG POLICY REFORM, HARM REDUCTION & LIVE MUSIC, BRINGING SUPPORTERS OF ALL TOGETHER TO WORK FOR A BETTER WORLD.

AMPLIFY ARTISTS

Stephanie (top left) with SSDP Alumni Association officer Victoria Jara ’11, UT-Austin professor Ellen Spiro, anthropologist Bia La-batae, PhD, MAPS and Heft Institute board member Robert Barnhart, and Texas A&M professor Michael Schwartz, MD.
“UPON RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF DRUG LEGISLATION AND THE WAR ON DRUGS, I FELT A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO DISSEMINATE ACCURATE DRUG EDUCATION AND COMBAT IRRATIONAL POLICIES. SYSTEMIC RACISM AND CLASISISM WITHIN DRUG POLICY, MISLEADING PROPAGANDA, AND THE SUPPRESSION OF VALID SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION OF MARIJUANA, MDMA, AND OTHER PSYCHEDELIC SUBSTANCES ALL MUST BE ERADICATED AND REPLACED WITH SENSIBLE POLICIES. I BELIEVE STUDENTS MUST RALLY TOGETHER AND DISMANTLE THIS DAMAGING SYSTEM, AND SSDP PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT FRAMEWORK FOR ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.”

Stephanie Hamborsky ’14
Student, University of Texas at Austin
2015 - 2016 OBJECTIVES

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

We will expand our network with active presence on 290 campuses — including 175 established chapters as well as interim chapters and Ambassadors — with 4,000 active members in the United States.

We will continue to develop and grow the SSDP Alumni Association program, more strongly connecting students to Alumni members, keeping Alumni engaged as advocates, and developing Alumni as philanthropists. Membership will grow to more than 200 members, resulting in a total of $33,648 in annual income.

The SSDP Ambassador program will provide a meaningful opportunity for individual students to support and participate in SSDP even if there is no chapter on campus.

Our Campus Campaign program will strategically leverage drug policy initiatives, leading to a 100% increase in the number of active campuses, 800% increase in the number of students we communicate with, and 300% increase in number of chapter members & Ambassadors by December 2016 in targeted states.

We will provide resources and support to our international chapter network.

We — staff and members — will collaborate with allies from across the political spectrum and non-drug policy reform groups to spread our message of reform.
**CREATING SAFE SPACES & FOSTERING DIVERSITY**

We will provide a welcoming, open, and safe space for all stakeholders, including those that stand in conflict on other issues, and work to ensure that a wide range of perspectives are represented. We will actively seek out opportunities for collaboration with other organizations, including non-drug policy reform groups and those beyond our traditional allies.

The Outreach, Recruitment and Diversity Committee will create and/or compile resources to assist chapters navigating diversity issues on their campuses, which staff will make accessible to chapters.

We will make every attempt to ensure that SSDP-sponsored events, including conferences, provide a welcoming environment for all of our members and potential members and strive to provide recognition of all lived experiences.

**BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER**

Our staff will utilize professional best practices in event planning, execution, and evaluation.

Noting that SSDP will be sponsoring Model UNGASS at the Drug Policy Reform Conference in November 2015 near Washington, DC, we will support local chapters in hosting regional conferences during the Fall 2015 semester when the opportunity is appropriate.

We will facilitate, in collaboration with allies, training opportunities to further legislative reform in at least two states.

We will successfully execute SSDP2016 Conference in April 2016 in Washington, DC with at least 500 attendees.

We will connect donors, alumni, and student members through networking receptions in major cities.

**PUSHING THE POLICY ENVELOPE AND SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER**

We will provide our membership with timely opportunities to take action on state and federal legislation, meet with elected officials or decision makers concerning drug policy reform, and provide resources to change campus and local policies.

Through our online action center, we will generate thousands of communications to government officials.

Our staff will publish and maintain data on campus drug policies and Call 911 Good Samaritan policies to serve as expert resources on these issues, and chapters will educate their communities or campuses about harm reduction policies, practices, and services.

**HIGHLIGHTING OUR STUDENTS & THEIR WORK**

We will highlight our students and their work through effective storytelling to donors, alumni, and the public — improving depth of data collected — and in hundreds of media reports, letters to the editor, and op-eds including referring media to student members as often as possible.

We will improve our strong, unified, and professional brand and all team members will endeavor to adhere to brand principles. Our website will remain functional and content will be up to date.

Our online presence will continue to grow: Facebook posts will reach an average 10,000 users,
EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING STUDENTS

We will provide students with a rich menu of activities to undertake and resources to support them, including changing marijuana and other drug prohibition policies to be more sensible and less punitive, promoting harm reduction/overdose prevention practices, providing evidence-based drug education, and teaching students about international drug policy, human rights, racial justice, civil rights, and their constitutional rights.

We will provide students with training in the three pathways of chapter building, policy change, and training and education through:

• Skills-building workshops with a total of 500 attendees
• One on one support by outreach staff to 500 students
• Keeping resources/educational materials up to date and making them more easily accessible and navigable.

We will mentor and guide our students through the leadership pipeline by providing training and resources in chapter building, community organizing, and leadership skills development.

We will connect our students and alumni with opportunities for professional development, including volunteer opportuni ties and employment with allied organizations, through the Career Services Program and distribution of information about compelling opportunities.

We will effectively utilize our special consultative status with the United Nations to ensure that the youth voice of the drug policy reform movement is represented at the 2016 UNGASS, through the Fall 2015 Model UNGASS event, and at other UN events where drug policy is a central topic.

We will continue to facilitate active youth participation at relevant conferences and events, such as the Drug Policy Alliance’s biennial Reform Conference.

DEFINING HIGH-QUALITY ACTIVISTS AND CHAPTERS

Overall, a majority of our chapters will be high-quality, meaning the chapter:

(1) earns 75 Points by engaging in a campaign to change at least one drug policy at the campus, local, state level, federal, or international level through activities such as lobbying, submitting letters to the editor, passing student government resolutions, changing a policy, and submitting a case study on a policy change campaign;

(2) earns 50 Points through educational activities such as hosting educational events, hosting film screenings or debates, distributing educational materials, and engaging in direct service volunteering.

(3) earns 75 Points through chapter-building activities such as attending leadership trainings, hosting regular chapter meetings, recruiting and training officers, tabling on campus, and building/maintaining relationships with other organizations on campus.

SSDP Ambassadors will be considered high-quality when they earn 20 points each semester through similar activities.

AMPLIFYING OUR MESSAGE

Through a partnership between SSDP and the music community (the AMPLIFY project), SSDP students will reach out at concerts and music festivals to recruit new supporters, provide on-site harm reduction, and educate the public about harm reduction policies, practices, and services.
**CULTIVATING MEANINGFUL DONOR RELATIONSHIPS**
*JAN – DEC 2015*

Evidence of nurtured relationships with our donor network will include:

- major individual gifts will be received in excess of $408,500, a $222,280 increase over 2014;
- foundation grants will be received in excess of $173,000 and will include two foundation grantors who have never given to SSDP before or not given in the last 5 years;
- conference income (including sponsorships) and other income (including merchandise and fee-based activities) will exceed $52,700; and
- other gifts will exceed $55,925 through strategic fundraising drives; and our monthly giving program will enroll more than 50 new donors.

**EFFECTIVELY MANAGING OUR FINANCES**

Donor files will be up-to-date.

Each member of the Board of Directors and Trustees shall meet minimum fundraising requirements.

We will seek to incorporate best practices in fundraising, including maintaining diversity among our sources of funding.

**MANAGING TO CHANGE THE WORLD**

SSDP will be well managed.

The Boards of Directors and Trustees will hold themselves accountable for carrying out their responsibilities.

Board and staff will actively ensure compliance with government regulations and industry best practices. We will invest in keeping SSDP free from liability and in organizational good standing.

Staff will feel appreciated and will be fairly compensated.

Staff will be given regular and prompt feedback about their performance, both regarding what they do well and where they need to improve.

Additionally, staff members’ performance will be formally reviewed annually and salary will be assessed at that time; salaries and benefits will be competitive with organizations of similar size and scope and will reward excellence.

Expectations will be clearly set and understood and deadlines normally met.

Staff will proactively communicate with and respond promptly to the boards.

Staff will quantify organizational accomplishments.

Conflicting priorities will be addressed and readjusted as needed.

Staff will seek to improve their professional abilities and proactively seek new opportunities for growth, participating in at least two professional development opportunities annually.

SSDP’s supporter data will be up to date.

SSDP will provide a robust and meaningful internship experience, by ensuring interns have ownership over projects, regular feedback, and access to unique opportunities outside of the day-to-day functions of the organization.

SSDP will make every effort to capture and maintain institutional knowledge.

**STAYING SENSIBLE**

Our organization will prioritize stability, ensuring that when expansion does occur, it is managed responsibly.

Our staff will embody a culture of excellence that emphasizes going above and beyond to reflect the following core values: efficiency, transparency, humility, optimism, inclusiveness, light-heartedness, diligence, objectivity, compassion, and consistency.
“JOINING SSDP AS A SOPHOMORE DIRECTLY LED ME TO A BREADTH OF OPPORTUNITIES: LEARNING HOW TO UTILIZE THE MEDIA, HELPING TO RUN THE CAMPAIGN THAT LEGALIZED MARIJUANA FOR THE FIRST TIME, SERVING AS LEGAL COUNSEL TO MARIJUANA BUSINESSES, BECOMING AN ENTREPRENEUR WITH MY CHAPTER CO-FOUNDER 10 YEARS LATER, AND EVEN WRITING SENSIBLE DRUG LAWS. BUT THE MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY IT FORWARD AND HELP THE NEXT GENERATION FIND THEIR PATH. THAT SENSE OF FAMILY IS THE BEST THING ABOUT SSDP.”

Shaleen Title ’02
Regulatory & Compliance Expert, 4Front Advisors
Member, SSDP Board of Trustees
# Consolidated Financial Statements

Students for Sensible Drug Policy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Organization & Students for Sensible Drug Policy Inc, a 501(c)(4) Organization

**January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014**

## Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$336,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and deposits</td>
<td>$5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$4,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$346,678</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$27,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,974</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$311,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$318,704</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total liabilities and net assets** | **$346,678** |

# Consolidated Statement of Activities

Students for Sensible Drug Policy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Organization & Students for Sensible Drug Policy Inc, a 501(c)(4) Organization

**January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014**

## Unrestricted Revenue & Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>$441,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorships</td>
<td>$24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>$22,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>$1,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$14,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue and support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$498,064</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$347,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$58,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$69,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$475,681</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,383</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, beginning of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$289,321</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$318,704</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The figures above reflect income and expenses for our 501(c)3 organization and our 501(c)4 organization. Complete audit reports and IRS Forms 990 are available on our website: ssdp.org/about/reports. The remainder of the content in this annual report represents activity from July 2014 through July 2015.
Sensible Society donors support Students for Sensible Drug Policy’s day-to-day operations, staff, and infrastructure to ensure chapters can continue to thrive and resources to grow will be available when they are needed. Giving monthly or annually, Sensible Society donors understand that consistent funding provides the stability SSDP needs to remain a dynamic, flexible, scrappy organization, and they commit themselves to helping SSDP build a more sensible society in which we value schools, not prisons.

To join the more than 200 Sensible Society members at the Supporter, Sustainer, Sponsor, or Superstar level, please contact us today.

This list includes Sensible Society members from the 2014 fiscal year.
PHOTO CREDITS

Nick Bowie, No Umbrella Media: Shea Gunther (p. 9)
Stacia Cosner: Midwest Regional Conference group (p.10), signs (back cover)
Ben Droz, Ben Droz Photography: staff headshots (p. 3), staff groups, (p. 13), staff group (above)
Mike Edmonds Photography: Sarah Merrigan (p. 13)
Alison Heckard: Shaleen Title (p. 45)
Zoe Mandese: Northeast Regional Conference group (p. 7)
Bryce Montgomery: Jennifer Purdon (p. 33)
SOSPact: group at Capitol building (p. 11)
Jane West, Edible Events: UConn SSDP with award (front cover), Sensory Celebration crowd (p. 11), wide awards ceremony photo (p. 11-12)
Chris Wallis, Side Pocket Images: student writing (p. 41)

Layout designed by Saul Fougner
NO MORE DRUG WAR

THE WAR ON DRUGS IS A WAR ON STUDENTS