CESAR Pilots Internet-Based Substance Abuse Assessment and Referral System for College Students

CESAR, in conjunction with Drug Strategies, Inc. and the university’s Health Center, has launched a Drug and Alcohol Referral and Assessment web page for University of Maryland college students. Nicknamed DARA*, the primary function of the web site is to provide a confidential, convenient way for local students to assess their risk for alcohol or other drug problems. After completing a brief screening test, students are provided with a score indicating their risk level. Students can then browse a list of on- or off-campus treatment resources.

Other DARA features include:

- **Peer Information Page**: reports results from the recent campus student drug survey;

- **Drug Trends**: provides current information on alcohol and other drugs, including links to other related web sites; and

- **Talk to Us**: students can anonymously offer their perceptions of new campus drug trends, how drugs have affected them, and their opinions about drug use.

In order to maximize student knowledge and use of DARA, CESAR is currently experimenting with several types of community- and campus-wide promotions, including DARA pens, posters, flyers, mass-mailings, and presentations. For more information, contact Leah Schwartzmann at 301-403-8329 or visit DARA at www.cesar.umd.edu/DARA.htm.

*The DARA program of the University of Maryland is not in any way affiliated with the D.A.R.E. programs.

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Want to Bring DARA to Your School?

DARA’s modular construction makes it easy to adapt for use by other colleges or universities. For more information about using DARA at your institution, contact Dr. Eric Wish at 301-403-8329 or ewish@cesar.umd.edu.

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