

# **Delaware General Health District**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **DELAWARE TEEN HONORED STATEWIDE FOR GETTING TOBACCO OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Delaware Hayes High School Senior Graham Bowling displays his Ohio Public Health Citizen of the Year award Tuesday with Delaware General Health District staff coordinators Linda Diamond, left, of the Tobacco Free Delaware County Coalition, and Katie Steinbrunner, right, of the Delaware County STAND UP Leadership Team.*

**DELAWARE, Oh., May 11, 2011** – A Delaware teenager campaigning to remove tobacco off all Ohio school grounds has been named Ohio Public Health Citizen of the Year.

Graham Bowling, 18, received the statewide honor Tuesday from the Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA) at its annual Celebrate Public Health Awards Dinner in Worthington.

Graham, a co-valedictorian in the Delaware Hayes High School Class of 2011, received the OPHA honor for his advocacy of policies prohibiting anyone from using any tobacco products on school grounds.

After Graham asked the Delaware City Schools Board of Education to enact a “100% Tobacco-Free Campus” policy in early 2010, he conducted his own survey of more than 500 students. The survey showed solid support for the policy, which was subsequently enacted in the Delaware City Schools.

Since then, Graham has joined adult members of the Tobacco Free Delaware County Coalition in asking the Ohio State Board of Education to enact a similar 100% tobacco-free policy for all Ohio schools. The request remains pending. Graham also has contacted U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Westerville, about possible similar tobacco-free school policies at the federal level.

Graham has been a dedicated member of the Delaware General Health District’s and Helpline’s STAND UP Leadership Team, which advocates healthy tobacco- and substance-abuse-free lifestyles among youths. It was through STAND UP that Graham learned the Delaware City Schools lacked a 100 percent tobacco-free policy. Under the previous policy, adults could use tobacco products outside school buildings. Graham’s testimony to change that included references to Hayes High tennis players bothered by smoke from spectators’ cigarettes during tennis matches.

Graham is the son of Gregory and Rebecca Bowling of Delaware. He plans to attend Miami University next fall to study business and eventually law.