



PRSSA to promote

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Although 87 percent of adults in Illinois believe registering as an organ donor is the right thing to do, only 60 percent are registered, according to Donate Life Illinois's Web site. Students in ISU's chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America are trying to increase the number of registered organ donors in Illinois.

Since signing the back of a driver's license is no longer the proper way to register as an organ donor in Illinois, PRSSA is working to educate students on becoming an organ donor and helping them register.

"We want students to be aware that they might think they're organ donors and they're not," Aubree Holly, a senior public relations major and PRSSA member, said.

"We feel it's a good cause and people should do this," Ian Delarosa, a sophomore general student and member of PRSSA, said. "You can help save more than 25 lives as a registered organ donor."

There are currently more than 100,000 people on the organ waiting list in the nation, including 4,700 in Illinois.

Next week, April 13 to April 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., PRSSA will be on the Quad and in the Bone Student Center, Schroeder Hall, Fell Hall and Milner to educate students on the importance of becoming an organ donor and help them register. The organization is promoting April as National Donate Life Month.

"It's important for students to come to us so they can make sure they are an organ donor. All we need from them is their driver's license and their home address," Holly said.

"We have cards they can fill out and when people sign up we're going to be giving out Donate Life T-shirts, stuffed animals and McAlister's cookies."

The students in PRSSA have been working with Carolyn Grisko & Associates, a Public

Relations firm in Chicago.

"They came up with a really great plan," Diane Eikenberry, project coordinator at the firm and campus campaign manager for Donate Life Illinois, said.

"I've really been impressed by the level of detail in their planning and they've really understood the issue very quickly and very well. I think they're going to be great advocates for donating and [for] the need to register."

While some people think being an organ donor means doctors will not try as hard to save a life, Delarosa said this is not the case.

"I've been assured many times that just because you're an organ donor, doctors don't give any less effort in order to save you," Delarosa said. "There's no sign on you when you come in that says 'Hey I'm an organ donor.' Their first goal is to save your life."

PRSSA is hoping to get 1,000 students to register as organ donors with them next week.

"Students can also register at donatelifeillinois.org and enter 'ISU' as their college name to help us keep track of our goal," Holly said.

For more information about donating organs or to register as organ donors, visit the above Web site or giftofhope.org.