

# Campus Safety Bulletin

April 2015

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**COMMUNITY POLICING:**  
**“WE WANT YOU”**



**2gether**  
WE PRESERVE  
CAMPUS SAFETY

*Campus safety  
begins with you!*



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EMERGENCIES  
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Successful crime fighting in the community requires a proactive rather than reactive approach. That means that proactive law enforcement agencies take time to determine the real problem, how to respond to it, and if the results of the response are effective. Many of us have heard the phrase, “If it’s not broken, don’t fix it.” However, if it’s cracking shouldn’t we repair it before it does break? Well, that’s exactly what the WSSU Police & Public Safety Department intends to do. We recognize that relations between law enforcement and some communities in our nation are fragile, if not broken. While we believe that our local relations do not mirror what’s being portrayed in the national news, there are areas that need strengthening and maybe even repairing. This starts with having conversations that can lead to positive relationships.

### Developing Community Partnerships

An ancient proverb states that “Two people are better off than one because they can help each other succeed.” We realize that our efforts to protect and serve this campus are maximized when we embrace a community approach to promoting campus safety. On March 23, we hosted our first “Trust Talks” in coordination with the Student Government Association, Justice Studies Program, and the Honors Program with approximately 100 attendees. These talks, which will be ongoing, were intended to foster efforts toward building trust between our community and the police force. So, what were some concerns discussed at the initial Trust Talks:

- The need for Campus Police to be more visible in the café during lunch and dinner hours.
- Safety in the Residence Halls: Students need to take precautions like keeping doors locked, staying with your visitor at all times, not letting people tailgate when entering the halls.
- Why it takes so many officers on a vehicle stop at times: Officers back each other up on calls, especially when there are several individuals in the vehicle.
- Why officers stop people that are not involved in an incident: If you’re at the scene you could be a witness or the suspect, so they have to ask questions to determine what you may know and/or if you were involved.
- Why officers appear so mean when they respond to a call: In some situations, especially a disturbance, the officers have to be firm to get the attention of those involved.

### Join this Initiative

According to Discover Policing, there are three key components to community policing: 1) Developing strong community partnerships; 2) Actively engaging in innovative problem solving; and 3) Implementing community policing into features throughout the organization.

Maintaining safety on campus is everyone’s responsibility. That’s why we want and need you to become actively engaged in our Community Policing initiative. What can you do?

- Attend future Trust Talks
- Offer input on how we can maintain and improve safety on campus
- If you witness an unsafe act, address it or report it. Don’t ignore it.

It’s the end of an academic year, but the beginning of our community policing initiative. And yes, we want you involved. So, remain vigilant in exercising safe practices this spring and even over the summer.