When a Student Dies

Sad as it is, a truth of the matter is that as long as there have been students, there have been student deaths. The public protocol is depressingly familiar: The public statement of condolence, the parade of grief counselors, the on-campus memorial service. But behind the scenes, the gears typically grind into overtime duty, as institutional leaders try to balance the need to tell all students what happened with the need to respect privacy rights, and the sometimes conflicting needs of campus friends of the deceased and family members arriving on campus. Because, as anyone whose been left to tie the innumerable loose ends following the death of a loved one can tell you, all those little details of living — the outstanding bills, the library fines, the glossy solicitations for donations — can prove unbearable for a family dealing with grief, perhaps particularly so when the death is utterly unexpected.

And, of course, on top of all that, there are often ongoing police investigations to deal with, safety precautions to adopt, and sometimes even campus health emergencies that must be confronted promptly, and with authority.

Excellent information.
The 180 SAFE Ride - A Best Practice in Traffic Safety Marketing and Community Partnerships

The 180 SAFE RIDE is a 12-day, 1200 mile bicycle tour around Florida to increase awareness regarding impaired driving, seatbelt safety, and the SAFE (Stay Alive From Education) Street Smart Program. The 180 SAFE Ride demonstrates that through a collaborative effort, public safety, citizens, businesses, and educational institutions can construct and execute a significant crime prevention campaign. Specifically, the 180 SAFE Ride fielded eight cyclists and several support crews to complete a journey around the state, stopping in major cities to draw media attention in a competitive market. The ride seized upon the element of human drama and determination to capture interest, thereby allowing a means to convey the central traffic safety message.

The 180 SAFE Ride launched the idea of community crime prevention partnerships to a level never attempted before in law enforcement. Development and implementation of a statewide traffic awareness campaign at no cost to the central spearheading law enforcement agency is nearly a full time job in itself. However, when the message is so critical, clear, and impacting upon every person and entity involved, enthusiasm gives rise to important partnerships, funding, and effort.

The 180 SAFE Ride is marked to be the gold standard for a traffic safety marketing campaign.

Managing Excessive Alarms from Card Access System

When card access systems were installed on the Florida State University Campus, the Chief of Police made the decision to treat these systems as a means to monitor the areas with the systems as if they were intrusion alarm systems, vowing to respond to events such as doors held, doors forced open, etc. As more systems were added, the task of monitoring and responding to reported events became unmanageable.

A committee was formed and several recommendations were made and implemented. FSU saw a steady drop in the numbers of card access alarms, the greatest of which was a result of the Housing alarm policy implementation, followed by the re-keying of doors.

Working together the Committee has made a significant positive impact on management of security for Florida State University.
Effective December 2005, in partnership with the University Police, Human Resources & Payroll (Classification & Compensation Team and the Payroll Office) enacted a new compensation plan for law enforcement employees. The plan was designed to provide promotion potential and salary increases that are similar to other local police department plans at a cost to the University of $60,000 per year (not including 40% fringe costs). The goal was to be both more competitive and reduce a 26% turnover rate. The results are impressive. In Fiscal Year 2007, almost no turnover occurred. The benefits to Mason include increased retention of experienced law enforcement officers and campus security as well as reduced recruitment and training expenses and overtime costs.

Pervasive media images of mass shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University have raised the specter of serious violence on college campuses. But by any measure, the risk of serious violence on campus is remarkably low, particularly in its most extreme form. Although the chances of serious violence may be remote, the potential consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Colleges must respond proactively to the risk, as parents rightly expect a special level of care for their sons and daughters while they are away at school. Thus, it is prudent and imperative that colleges take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of students as well as faculty and other employees.

While shootings may be the most visible form of campus violence, they are clearly not the most commonplace. Security practices must also focus on other, more prevalent, forms of violence such as sexual and physical assault. Current best practices, taken in combination with research, demonstrate the essential role of collaboration among all service providers in the prevention of violent incidents on college campuses.

This report has four major sections. First, we define the nature and scope of campus violence both nationally and in Massachusetts. Next, we review previous reports of study groups and task forces and discuss established best practices for enhancing campus safety and violence prevention. Third, we examine the current state of security and violence prevention at institutions of higher education throughout Massachusetts based upon a survey conducted of public colleges and universities. Finally, by comparing these results with established best practices, we advance 27 recommendations for how Massachusetts schools can best improve their security and violence prevention efforts.
**Title:** Innovative Training Module  
**Source:** Florida State University  
**Abstract:** The Training Module implemented this year is a major step towards saving the University money and time as it relates to training. The FSU Police Department is committed to having highly trained officers to protect our students and staff. We are committed to providing a safe work and learning environment for our community. All officers spend an enormous amount of time every year conducting training. Officers are trained yearly on weapons, defensive tactics, active shooter response, CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens, driving, legal updates etc... Due to demands on shift, the officers usually train on their days off in an overtime status. This also takes officers away from quality time they could spend with their families. Officers are already taxed with working overtime for special events/details on campus and training has been no exception. Tracking the training and certifications of all officers is also time consuming. All officers have to conduct mandatory training every year and also maintain their certifications in many areas of expertise in which they teach. The new Training Module addresses the need for online training and tracking of all the certifications for officers and non sworn staff alike. Officers and staff will now have the ability to take training online at work, which will save the University a considerable amount of time and money.
Panelists Suggest Threat Assessment for Campus Safety

Just a few weeks after the Virginia Tech massacre, the House Education and Labor Committee held a hearing on best practices in campus security. One of the hearing's most important messages was about the value of using threat assessment models on campuses.

The committee heard from four campus security experts: Steven J. Healy, director of public safety at Princeton University and president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); Louanne Kennedy, former provost at California State University at Northridge; Dewey G. Cornell, who directs the Virginia Youth Violence Project in the University of Virginia school of education; and Jan Walbert, vice president for student affairs at Arcadia University and president of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).

All four spoke to the importance of threat assessment models on college campuses, which Dewey Cornell said allows campus security "to identify troubled students long before they are armed" and intervene before they resort to violence. Discussing the difference between profiling students and threat management, both Cornell and Healy emphasized that the FBI and Secret Service regard profiling inappropriate for a school setting. Both said the behavioral threat assessment approach provides colleges with a system for students to talk with someone anonymously about a threat, follow-up to ensure such reports don't fall through the cracks, and provisions for removing a student when necessary, while minimizing the threat of a lawsuit.

The goal of the "Cooking with Cops" program is to reduce the number and severity of fires and fire alarms that occur in University housing. Initial fire safety training was unsuccessful for several reasons. First of all, it was very expensive to mandate fire safety and fire extinguisher training. Training 1500 students using real fire extinguishers could cost the University $16,000 initially and $6,000 annually after the first year. The second problem was engaging the students so that they considered the fire safety information useful and used it to prevent fires and fire alarms.

The "Cooking With Cops Program" not only provides comprehensive training in cooking and fire safety, but provides the students with instructions on how to safely use kitchen appliances and how to cook food items that can cause problems for college students. The program also injects personal contact and interaction between the police and the students and includes a demonstration on cooking baking.
In the worst case scenarios we can imagine, where the life safety of our campus community is at immediate risk, seconds count. Institutions cannot afford to have an emergency notification and warning system in place that takes minutes to verify an emergency, minutes to draft a message, minutes to seek approval, and/or minutes to send. When seconds count, minutes don’t.

The Florida State University, in conjunction with Siemens Industry, has developed the “Easy Button,” a centralized activation portal for its FSU ALERT emergency notification system. With the press of a single button by an FSU Police dispatcher, an FSU ALERT emergency notification message is distributed via 19 primary and secondary delivery methods to everyone on campus within 3 minutes or less.