

QUICK TIPS: FALL SEMESTER SAFETY



The beginning of a new academic year is the perfect time to renew your safety and security message to your campus community. By being more visible during Welcome Week and the months to follow, your Campus Police or Security Staff can develop a positive image to students and their families, as well as faculty and staff. It is important that the visibility isn't only perceived as a show for welcome week, but is reinforced throughout the fall semester by continual messaging and positive interactions. Here are a few quick tips to engage your campus community on every level, from security and staff to the students themselves.

1. Security Engagement

Although it is important to provide appropriate security coverage at events during Welcome Week, consider including leadership as well as patrol officers at other opportunities, such as:

- Invite the **Police Chief** to speak at an opening event.
- Ask **officers** to mingle at parent socials.
- Include **officers** in late night social activities.

2. Staff Engagement

Your faculty and staff can be a crucial element in spreading the word and providing vital safety resource information to students. Including Faculty and staff in this initiative can be as easy as asking them to:

- Explain the **Blue Light Phone Systems**.
- Give out **Campus Police** or **Security's phone numbers** at the beginning of each class.
- Encourage students to sign up for the **Emergency Notice System**.
- Provide information about the **safety escort services** and **shuttle programs** offered.

3. Student Engagement

Educating students about steps they can take on their own to make their campus safer can be presented during Welcome Week and throughout the semester. Be sure to include both the residence hall students and commuter students.

Residence Hall Students

For many students, life in the residence hall is their first taste of freedom and living on their own. Reminding students of these key safety tips could make a major difference in the safety of the entire residence hall community.

- **Meet new people** in your building and on your hall, so you can identify when someone is in the building that doesn't belong.
- **Go to meetings** for security protocols in your building.
- Get to **know the Residence Life Staff** in case of emergency situations.
- **Lock your room.**
- **Do not prop open exterior doors.**

Commuter Students

Be sure to include students who have moved from living on-campus to local off-campus apartments as part of this population. Sometimes this group can get lost when creating lists of commuters for emergency or other helpful communications.

- **Park near your last class** so you will be closer to your car later in the day when it's likely to be dark.
- **Hide your valuables**, including textbooks. Let students know if on-campus storage is available for their belongings.
- **Offer security checks** during breaks and holidays for off-campus student apartments.

Get Started If you are looking to enhance any of the programs or services mentioned in this guide, please **contact Bill Woodward** to discuss how Block by Block Campus Services may be the right fit for your campus community needs.