

The Extinction of “Town and Gown”; a Blended Model for Campus Safety

The metaphor “town and gown” is commonly used to describe relations between institutions of higher education and the communities they reside in. The term itself has historical roots in the academic vestments worn by medieval scholars. Functionally, the robes kept them warm while studying in dark, stone libraries, but socially, the “gown” became a symbol of how the academic institution was different and separate from the rest of the people in the area. As our cities grow and our liberal arts colleges and universities across the country and around the world increasingly value a global education and community service as a practical compliment to the academics taught in the classroom, professionals in both the higher education and government fields are quickly learning that “town and gown” is not only an outdated and segregating term, but one that is at the heart of many of the most hotly debated topics in public safety today.

Beginning in 2010, Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Police Department piloted a program aimed at breaking down the barriers of the old ‘town and gown’ system. The program consisted of having a College Resource Officer (much like a School Resource Officer) assigned full time to campus. The idea was simple; having police personnel on site, working hand in hand with various offices on campus to develop programming targeted at changing the social norms centered around issues such as problem drinking, drug abuse, theft, sexual assault, and community awareness brought both organizations closer together working toward a common goal. During the five years that the CRO program has been active at Colorado College, more than ten new community policing oriented programs have been established on campus including a neighborhood watch, a student peer-to-peer neighborhood patrol, and a bike safety awareness program, just to name a few. The cooperation between the college and the community facilitated through these programs has proven its usefulness and lead to several major arrests on campus, including a peeping tom, several burglaries, and a number of sexual assaults. Statistically speaking, the number of burglaries from residential buildings has decreased by 90% and bike thefts by 80% in the last year alone. But more importantly, these programs have initiated dialogue on campus and in the surrounding community that is cooperative, positive, and focused on partnership rather than division.

The success of our ever-growing relationship with both the Colorado Springs Police and Fire Departments has been taken even further and been incorporated into a “blended model” for campus safety that was just this year formally approved by our Board of Trustees. This model combines full-time, professional, unarmed Campus Safety patrol officers with armed police officers contracted through a written agreement with Colorado Springs Police Department, and student “Tiger Patrol” and “Safe Ride” employees to fill service roles in support of our patrol operations. Any given night of the week, you can find student officers making peer-to-peer contacts at parties to prevent noise complaints and ensure social host responsibility, Campus Safety officers and Colorado Springs Police officers jointly patrolling both the campus and surrounding community, Fire personnel assisting with drills or training on campus, student drivers transporting people safely around campus and downtown, and local residents who now feel comfortable enough to communicate with their student neighbors about concerns that previously would have gone directly to the police.

As we look forward to the challenges that face both the campus and the city in years to come, we are now much more confident, having taken thoughtful, purposeful strides toward shedding the “town and gown” past and preparing ourselves to look to the future as a community.



Director of Campus Safety
Roy Garcia



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TIGER PATROL

During the 2011-2012 school year to start a student patrol on campus. The Campus Resource Officer conducted research over the next 1.5 years to see what other college/universities around the country have done with student patrol programs. With the help of Campus Safety and Student Life we were able to conduct research and design a program that could benefit the campus and the surrounding community.

With a city police department which is growing in a much less prolific manner than the community it serves, many problems predictably arise. With a low (and lowering) officer per-capita ratio, the community creates more public safety demands than can be adequately met by CSPD.

Based on crime trend data, input from Colorado College Campus Safety, Colorado Springs Police Department Personnel, Current and Past Colorado College Students, and members of the community at large, the main concerns for the Colorado College community are:

1. Crimes against society – drug use, disorderly conduct, alcohol violations.
2. Quality of life violations – public urination, excessive noise, littering, graffiti, vagrancy, panhandling, loitering, etc.
3. Off-Campus residents not properly controlling their parties and/or gatherings.
4. Colorado College students roaming around the neighborhood being loud.
5. Property crimes – residential burglaries, criminal trespass offenses, motor vehicle thefts, and other larcenies.
6. Lack of ownership and/or connection to the Colorado Springs Community for Colorado College students.

These enumerated problems sometimes can contribute to a general feeling of uneasiness among citizens who live in, work in, and pass through our community each day. This fear, however slight, translates into a barrier between the citizens and the Colorado College community. When localized, these problems destroy the physical environment and create conditions that allow members of the criminal element to thrive.

Solution:

A student, peer-to-peer patrol, helps build stronger relations & sense of ownership, takes advantage of both existing resources and relationships, and provides a cost-effective way to assign resources to the issue of student-initiated noise, conduct, and alcohol issues in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The SPO team, under the supervision and leadership of a program supervisor from Campus Safety, would perform duties including (but not limited to):

- Conduct party checks for off campus students houses
- Provided courtesy warnings for loud party complaints
- Patrol, Observe, and report occurrences in and about the campus, via portable radio unit, to the Campus Safety Dispatch, and prepare written reports as requested.
- Supports the Colorado College Student Code of Conduct outlined in The Pathfinder and assume social responsibility.
- Report to the Campus Safety Dispatch, Supervisor, or other campus safety officer of any person(s) who appear to be suspicious by their action and/or behaviors.
- Notify the Campus Safety Dispatch of all serious crime and emergency situations. ***(THE SPO DOES NOT TRY TO APPREHEND OR USE FORCE ON ANYONE. HE OR SHE WILL CALL THE CAMPUS SAFETY DISPATCH IF IN, OR APPROACHING, A DANGEROUS SITUATION!)***

- Regularly patrol campus parking lots and areas of campus where there is high student activity. Report incident of crime or suspicious activities to the Campus Safety Dispatch
- Initiate and submit written reports (patrol logs, notes taken during observation and obtained during incidents) as appropriate, and in a timely manner.

We used Block 7 and 8 of the 2012-2013 school years as a pilot period for the SPO program. We utilized campus safety officers, local police officers along with student workers and student volunteers for the patrol through the pilot period. We received positive feedback from students and community members. We used the feedback from students and community members to adjust the program, which official launched during the first part of the 2013-2014 school year.

Under the direction of Director Roy Garcia, Assistant Director Nick Calkins, and Campus Resource Officer Newton we have been able to increase the program from 7 students to over 30 that patrol campus and the neighborhood. They are extra eyes and ears for campus safety and local police and help to break up large gathering of noisy students and address noise issues in the neighborhood before any police intervention.

We wanted this program to grow more organically, so we did very little in recruiting students. A young group of students heard about the program and around January 2014 it expanded rapidly and we have had so much interest that there is a waitlist of students who would like to be a part of Tiger Patrol. They are now out patrolling the campus at all times of the day, helping in the campus safety dispatch center, and working events.



Crime Prevention on Campus

Under the Direction of Director Garcia in partnership with the Colorado Springs Campus Resource Officer Newton, last year alone they developed three unique Tiger Watch Campaigns

- U-Lock or I Steal – Emphasized locking bikes with U-Locks. Since the start we have seen U-Lock usage move from under 50% at the start of the year to up over 75% towards the end of the year. This campaign along with the college bait bike has led to an 80% decrease of bike thefts on campus.
- No Tiger Walks Alone – Help to increase person awareness at night, encouraging students to walk in groups and look out for each other.
- Be KIND to Yourself - Partnered with the KIND Company and they supplied over 600 KIND bars to hand out to students before they left for Spring Break. The campaign was a great success and delivered a positive healthy message to our students.



TIGER WATCH

In April 2012 with the help of University of Wisconsin Madison PD we launched a Tiger Watch Pilot. The pilot program was launched in the three main residential halls. On April 4, 2012 we had our first Tiger Watch information meeting. We had approximately 90% of the students who attended the first meeting sign up to be official volunteers. We (campus safety and CSPD) were also invited by several students to their sorority (Beta Omega chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta at Colorado College) where we presented the TIGER WATCH program to approximate 50 students. We had positive feedback from the students about the program.

2012-2013 Stats:

- Tiger Watch was launched in all residential halls on campus.
- 3 Tiger Watch training sessions, training Block Captains and volunteers.
- 11 Tiger Watch emails to community members, talking about safety information, current crimes on campus and other general information. These emails coupled with Campus Safety's Alert Emails helped in the apprehension of several suspects on campus
 - **Burglary/Criminal Trespassing** - Thanks to student reports a male suspect was caught and arrested. A search warrant for his home was issued, which resulted in the recovery of \$1,000 worth of stolen items. CSPD#12-31963, 12-31965 & 12-31840 were all cleared with the arrest.
 - **Bike Theft (Felony)/Criminal Mischief** – Thanks to the detailed report of a CC student we were able to locate a bike thief, resulting in the recovery of a bike worth \$3,400 CSPD#13-05352

- **Burglary/Trespass** – Thanks to reports and surveillance footage a Felony Warrant for 2nd Degree Burglary, 1st Degree Criminal Trespass, and 2nd Degree Criminal Trespass was issued, suspect was later arrested CSPD#13-04499
- **Bike Theft (Misdemeanor)** – Thanks to the detailed reports by a staff member a warrant was issued for a bike thief and the bike valued at around \$1000 was recovered.
- November 26, 2012 Tiger Watch launched a Facebook page.
 - 20 Facebook post, reached 363 people according to Facebook stats which started in May of 2013. From May 2013-May 2014 we reached 11,250 people according to Facebook stats.

The program continued into the 2013-2014 school year and has shown how valuable it is to the college community. Thanks to Tiger Watch community members calling in tips, CSPD made a number of felony arrest on campus including burglary, theft, and two invasion of privacy cases (Peeping Tom) CSPD#13-31901, 13-31979, 13-32093, 14-09898. These are just a few examples of how our community is coming together, helping fight crime and watching out for one another.

Tiger Watch just completed its second full year on campus and is now in every residential building on the campus of Colorado College. Tiger Watch has also helped better define Colorado College boundaries with the creation of Tiger Watch signs, similar to the neighborhood watch signs displayed in hundreds of neighborhoods throughout Colorado Springs. These signs are now displayed around campus and help to better define the campus boundaries. Tiger Watch joins the 700 + a Neighborhood Watch groups in Colorado Springs and demonstrates a deeper connection and commitment to the City of Colorado Springs.



Tiger Watch Challenge Coin

We also created a new student, faculty, and staff recognition program on campus through Tiger Watch and on May 6, 2013 we hosted the first Tiger Watch Awards Dinner, where we honored 25 student, faculty, and staff members with a unique Tiger Watch Challenge Coin. We partnered with Bon Appetit and offer all coin winners 25% off at Colorado Coffee when they present their coin. In May 20, 2014 at the 2nd Tiger Watch Awards Dinner we honored 38 student, faculty, and staff members with a unique Tiger Watch Challenge Coin. The coin has become a symbol of pride on campus for students, faculty and staff.



Challenge Coin Dinner 2014



Sober Host / Party Patrol / Party Registration

Over the last year under the direction of Director Garcia and Assistant Directors Nick Calkins in partnership with Campus Resource Officer Newton the Party Patrol and Sober Host programs have grown and been extremely successful. The patrols seek out the parties early in the night and officers meet with the host to talk about the night. At that point, we gather contact information for the host(s) and also provided the host with our work cell phone number. This allows contacting the host via phone and vice versa if any problems arise. We go over the roles of being a responsible host(s), make sure neighbors have been contacted and go over several liquor laws and nuisance violations that will cause the party to be shut down. We also talk about safety concerns for the party and help them explore ideas and set ups that could help the party run smoother. We continue to monitor the party throughout the night to make sure all of the requirements are being met. If they continue to host a reasonable party no action is taken. If there are numerous violations that are not addressed by the host, the party is shut down and the host could face school and/or criminal sanctions.

The final role of this program is the following up with the host(s) a few days after the party. This allows the host(s) to meet with campus safety officers and the campus resource officer and talk about what went well and what could be improved upon for their next party. This has worked well and we saw success throughout the last three years, students who were hosting parties contacted me several days before their party to give the PD and campus safety a heads up. They also sought out advice about safety concerns and the setups of their parties.

The Sober Host program goes in line with the Party Patrol program. All Colorado College parties on and off campus should be staffed with a sober host. For the last several years we (campus safety, local police, and student life) have provided all students who want to live off campus with off campus living presentations. These presentations cover a number of topics including responsible party hosting, how to register the party, and having a sober host at every party. We work with all students who want to host a party and encourage them to register their party and provided the name of their sober host to the campus resource officer and/or Campus Safety. The sober host serves as the contact point for campus safety, police and most importantly their neighbors should there be issues or concerns at the party. This program has been successful in reducing the number of complaints and concerns for the community and CSPD Officers. In the first year of the program we saw that around 99.5% of the parties had sober host. The program continues to be successful and during the 2013-2014 school year, we saw that 95% of the parties contacted were staffed with at least one sober host. This year we are at 100% compliance with over a hundred parties contacted. We have also had 76 of the parties off campus pre-register their parties with CSPD and campus safety.

With these programs we have seen a dramatic decrease in calls for service into campus safety and CSPD and have seen the relationship between students and neighbors strengthen and grow.

Activity	Totals (2013-2014)
Student Contacts	1,839
Calls for Service	191
Verbal Warnings	178
Summons Issued	15
Party Checks	214
Parties Shutdown	89
Foot Patrols	103
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 95% of the parties had a sober host ❖ 100% compliance from all students who were asked to shut their parties down 	