

Grand Canyon University Department of Public Safety



By the fall of 2014, the Department of Public Safety at Grand Canyon University (GCU DPS) was a full service Public Safety department, providing emergency and non-emergency services to a campus of approximately 7,000 on-campus students, plus faculty and staff. Its non-sworn officers provide protection to students, faculty, staff and visitors, while providing the physical security necessary to safeguard all of the University's assets, which include the main campus in the heart of Phoenix, to 6 off-sites located throughout the Arizona and New Mexico. Our department works very closely with the Phoenix Police Department, creating a unique partnership which has continued reduce crime in the area. Crime reduction from this year over last has shown a 17% decrease, with continuing month over month reductions measuring over 30% this calendar year.



With the anticipated growth of the University from approximately, 12,000 students attending school on main campus in year 2014-2015, this year we anticipate nearly 18,000 students attending, with approximately 9,000 students living on campus (these figures do not include the nearly 65,000 on-line students). To prepare for this growth, the department and its leadership started an aggressive program to expand programs and services, both within GCU DPS and the community it serves.

A formal recruit training academy was expanded to three weeks, with a dedicated Recruitment and Training supervisor assigned to the task of increasing the size of the department, which grew from approximately 80 FTE's to over 160 FTE's, with 70 part time employees and student workers. Student centered training was added, such as RAD style self-defense training and a Facebook page in an effort to push out information to our community. A designated Clery reporting officer was identified, along with a dedicated Investigator, to handle increasingly complex reporting requirements associated with Clery, Title IX and WAVA and social media monitoring. The Emergency Management division was expanded, as increasing duties, including the identification of OSHA mandated inspections prompted an increased work load.

Patrol was tasked with new areas of responsibility, including the patrol of a new golf course, a new hotel complex, the security for a 7,500 seat arena and the expansion of the main campus, which added over 10 buildings (with another 7 to be built during this 2015-2016 school year). To accomplish this task, the department's command structure was reorganized, which included the creation of a new Commander position, two new lieutenants and several sergeants added for the increased responsibilities of supervising this rapidly growing force.

To add to all of these changes, a complete move occurred during the month of August, with GCU DPS moving into a new office building (new 14,000 sq. ft. facility), which featured an expanded communications center. **All of these tasks have been completed in less than (1) calendar year, the majority of which occurred during calendar year 2015.**

