VCUPD earns crime prevention campus recertification

For the second time, the VCU Police Department has earned the distinct honor of being named a certified crime prevention campus by the Virginia Criminal Justice Services Board. In May 2014, the department was formally named the first public institution of higher education in Virginia to earn the certification.

On Jan. 17, during a VCU Men’s Basketball game, Virginia’s Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Brian Moran, formally recognized the department. Basketball fans gave the department’s leaders and officers a standing ovation.

As part of the certification process, an agency must detail crime prevention goals, programs, effectiveness and accomplishments; it’s required to have numerous core safety elements. Those elements include having a certified crime prevention specialist on staff, maintaining mutual aid agreements with other agencies, continuing compliance with the federal Jeanne Clery Act, having a crisis management plan in place and distributing campus safety information. The certification is in place for three years, at which point the department can seek reassessment.

A special thanks to blood drive donors

Sgt. Patience Butters and the crime prevention team organized a VCU Police blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross on Dec. 14. Due to the generous donors within the department, and outside guests, the Red Cross collected 20 pints right before the holidays. Thanks to everyone who contributed at a very busy time of year.
Toy & supply drives brighten holidays for students, pediatric patients

Left: For the second year in a row, **Dispatcher Kiosha Pollard** organized a toy drive for pediatric patients at VCU Health. In December, she and patrol officers delivered more than 70 toys from VCU Police staff to children in the pediatric emergency room. **Ofc. Joseph Demro, Ofc. Christopher Roberts**, former Ofc. Sean Longnecker and Alex Monday (son of Dispatcher Arthur Monday) assisted. Right: Former Ofc. Sean Longnecker organized a toy and supply drive for students at Carver Elementary School. More than 90 stockings, filled with gifts, were also delivered in December. **Ofc. Lisa Berube**, former Ofc. Tricia Mozingo, **Ofc. Olushola Kayode** and Applications Analyst Amber Shaffer helped deliver the stockings. VCU Police thanks G4S Security and VCU’s School of Dentistry, for their generous contributions to the Carver stocking drive!

**McGruff joins Mascot Mahem**

On Jan. 28, **Ofc. Samuel Wisegarver** donned the McGruff costume for Mascot Mayhem during a VCU Women’s Basketball game at the Siegel Center. Wisegarver did an excellent job meeting fans — young and old — and playing in the mascot game.

— **Sgt. Jennifer Riemann**, 
**Patrol Division**
Sheriff's office appreciates police and security assistance at VCU Medical Center

[Chief Venuti],

On Saturday morning, Dec. 23, one of our most liked deputies...suffered cardiac arrest and was found unresponsive. He was rushed to VCU Medical Center where he passed a few hour later. I wanted to pass on to you my sincere appreciation for your police officers and security officers who went above and beyond to assist us with the family as well as a large contingent of deputies who were there. Your folks went out of their way to ensure we had a place to wait, personally walked us to where we needed to be, and frequently checked back to see if we needed anything. We did not expect such treatment but were very much appreciative of it all during this very tragic event for [the deputy's] family and our extended family and I wish to personally thank everyone. The Central Virginia Law Enforcement Chief Executives Association is a valuable association and I believe one of the overlooked benefits is the personal relationships that come out of it. Please pass on to all your members our sincere appreciation for the professionalism, respect, and sympathy they all showed throughout the day at VCU Medical Center.

— Sheriff Karl Leonard
Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office

DIVERSITY RICHMOND AWARD: At the end of November, Chief John Venuti (center) joined VCU President Michael Rao (left) and VCU Media Specialist Kenneth Decker at an awards ceremony by Diversity Richmond’s Board of Trustees. The board recognized those in the Richmond area who are working for a community of justice.
Patrol officers thanked by staff in Broad Street office

...This morning I contacted VCU police because a man was sitting in our doorway at 906 W. Broad, (which is clearly marked with a "No Trespassing" sign) and panhandling. He was not obstructing egress however it made female staff and visitors entering the building uncomfortable. I politely asked the man to move and he said he would do so. Fifteen minutes later he was still there so I contacted VCU Police.

Officers [Christopher] Riedemann and [David] Shiner arrived in what seemed like only 5 minutes. We watched from the front window as man left the doorway when he spotted Officer Shiner across the street. Officer Riedemann strategically placed their vehicle on Goshen St. to intercept him.

While we could not hear what was being said to him we observed the officers' demeanor. They were calm, respectful, and professional in spite of the man's very belligerent and provocative behavior. He even threw his jacket as he ranted at them. One of the officers politely picked it up and handed it back to him.

This went on for several minutes and they were unflappable!...We waited until the man left, passing by our building, before venturing out. The officers even waited and watched to make sure he left the immediate area. This was reassuring because I was/am concerned about retaliation.

We made it a point to thank them but I wanted to take it a step further and express my appreciation in writing. Thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Deborah Butler

— Deborah S. Butler, Associate Director Center for Cultural Experiences in Prevention, Department of Psychology
Making connections across VCU

Night patrol officers hosted a movie night and visited pediatric patients at VCU Health in December 2017. They showed The Polar Express and provided treats with hot chocolate for children on Main-7. The shift also visited patients in their rooms and delivered messages from Santa. From left: Lt. Leonard Dilligard, Ofc. Joshua Willis, Ofc. Lorenzo Randazzo and Ofc. Thomas McIntosh.

— Lt. Nicole Dailey, Patrol Division

Twitter mention from VCU Dining Services

Special shout out to @VCUPD for those Milky Way Milkshakes at Midnight Breakfast last night! 🎄∝

As students studied for finals in VCU’s James Branch Cabell Library, patrol Ofc. Lorenzo Randazzo (above left) and Sgt. Michael Brandon spoke with more than 100 students and answered questions about safety on campus. Below: Brandon hands out safety tips to a patron in the lobby. (Dec. 13, 2017)

The ladies of Tri Sigma dropped off treats on Dec. 1 to thank officers for helping with the sorority’s philanthropy efforts. Tri Sigma raised more than $5k in 2017! Chief John Venuti met up with Ariana Nozary, Yasmin Rowe, Jackie Petras and Jingi Hairston. We look forward to working with them in 2018.