



Campus Cops Corner

-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-

Public Safety Newsletter

My fellow PPCC SURF (Student Urgent Response Force) members and I hope that you enjoyed both our and Dr. Nicoletti's presentations during the most recent "Professional Development Week." You'll recall he stressed that "...people don't just 'snap.'" Someone else usually knew of the impending violence. The difference between us intervening or suffering a tragedy was the willingness of someone to step forward and report their concerns. Please read about a great program below.

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SAFE 2 TELL

"Make a Call; Make a Difference"

A study of young people found that the student "Code of Silence" coupled with fear of retaliation was a major impediment to them coming forward with information even though more than 80% of them had information about impending violence. In 1999, subsequent to the Columbine High School tragedy, CSPD Officer Susan Payne developed the "Safe 2 Tell," anonymous reporting system concept while working as a school resource officer in Colorado Springs. Since that time, it has developed into a private 501(c)(3) non-profit and now operates as a public—private partnership. The program was so successful, that it has been adopted statewide in Colorado and the 24 / 7 number displayed below (1-877-542-SAFE / 1-877-542-7233) is staffed by members of the Colorado State Patrol. Susan, by the way, is now a Special Agent with the State of Colorado and is Executive Director of the program.

In its first five years of operation at the State level (2004—2009), it has generated over 6000 calls from 136 Colorado cities, and 53 of our 64 counties. 172 calls were about "guns/weapons," 518 about "bullying," 262 about "threats," 154 about "suicide prevention," (the second leading cause of teenage deaths), 131 about "sexual misconduct," 157 about "harassment," 127 about "child abuse," and 122 about "fights or gang related" information, among others. The subsequent investigations are carried out by either law enforcement or school administrators as appropriate and the 220 investigations have resulted in 35 police arrests. Perhaps most impressive are the 28 "school attacks prevented," 209 "counseling / referrals," and the 181 "prevention / intervention plans" initiated.

Perhaps you'll be able to provide the number to a student who needs it, or maybe you'll make the call yourself. Visit their website at www.safe2tell.org

Important Numbers & websites:

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: www.ppcc.edu/alert
- Crime Stoppers
634-STOP (7867)
- Anonymous Reporting
www.SAFE2TELL.org

1-877-542-7233

