
{AllStudents} Campus Safety

Message from the President, SMCM <mp@smcm.edu>

Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Reply-To: mp@smcm.edu

To: All Student Email <allstudentemail@smcm.edu>, All Employees Email <allemployees@smcm.edu>



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

A Message from the President

Campus Safety

Dear Campus Community,

We are fortunate to study and work in a peaceful, beautiful setting, especially at this time of year. Headlines from across the country make clear, however, that violence can erupt at any time, and communities must vigilantly prepare for actions that may harm our safety.

At St. Mary's College, your safety is our priority. Considering recent tragedies on campuses and in communities across America, we conducted an overall assessment of our campus safety protocols. Let me stress that this was not done because of any threat on our campus. We examined what colleges and universities in Maryland, as well as our peer institutions, have in place, engaged with industry experts and reviewed research data.

Based on this helpful and informative process, we are enhancing our Office of Public Safety in these ways:

1. We are providing additional training for our public safety officers and ensuring they have body cameras.

2. We are searching for a new Director for Public Safety who will implement the new security/special police model.
3. We are evolving our safety model to a security/special police model to include sworn special police officers.
4. We will be submitting an RFP to hire (by August 2023) a security firm to provide armed security officers to augment our own public safety unit's efforts until such time as we can train or hire our own special police officers.
5. We will hire more public safety officers, and some will be armed as a permanent part of the unit.

Currently, if there is a campus threat, our local law enforcement's arrival on campus and ability to respond is not immediate, due to our distance. We want to be certain our trained public safety officers are immediately ready to respond until our local sheriff's office can arrive and assume the lead.

Periodically, we will again review our policies and procedures, making changes that make sense for our campus community. We will continue to offer students, faculty and staff training on what to do in crisis situations. In the meantime, know that our Office of Public Safety will be even stronger once these changes are implemented. We are grateful for the tireless work of our public safety officers and their commitment to our College.

If you have any questions about this update, please contact Jerri Howland, Vice President for Student Affairs at studentaffairs@smcm.edu or call 240-895-4208.

Sincerely,

Tuajuanda C. Jordan, President

St. Mary's College of Maryland

The **NATIONAL PUBLIC HONORS** *College*

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