



**Testimony of Steven J. Healy, President, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
April 23, 2007**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Senator Collins, Members of the Committee. My name is Steven Healy and I am the director of public safety at Princeton University. I am also the President of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), an association that represents the campus public safety executives at 1,200 institutions of higher education, mostly in the U.S., and more than 1,800 individual members.

I thank and commend the Committee for holding this hearing on security on America's campuses. IACLEA joins with you in mourning the loss of so many students and faculty at Virginia Tech last week. This tragic event has heightened the urgency of our continuous efforts to enhance campus public safety. Important questions exist about safety and security at the more than 4,000 institutions of higher education that provide education, training and a home community for 15 million students in our nation. Our shared efforts to advance campus public safety must acknowledge and honor the students and faculty who perished and were injured one week ago today.

Over the next several minutes I hope to accomplish three primary purposes. First and foremost, I want to ensure this Committee and the American people that vigorous efforts are underway to develop and implement best practices in campus public safety. With our partners, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, College and University Policing Section (IACP) and several federal agencies, we are committed to enhancing safety and security on our Nation's campuses. Secondly, I want to paint a picture that fully describes the complexity of this critical mission. Finally, I hope that through my testimony we can identify additional ways to supplement our current efforts. First, I would like to describe the current state of campus public safety.

Campus public safety continues to evolve into a complex responsibility. Campus public safety officers must be trained and equipped to deal with a variety of issues. These include community policing strategies, crime prevention and control, alcohol and substance abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, students with mental health issues, and campus crime reporting compliance. In short, we face all of the challenges confronted by our municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement partners, and more.

College and university campuses are traditionally open and accessible environments that reflect our free and democratic society. We must balance the openness that is the

hallmark of the American system of higher education with the need to protect students, faculty, staff, and visitors. We must assure the safety of our students walking at night from the library to their dormitories as well as ensure the security of nuclear reactors on nearly a dozen campuses. We must also protect campus venues such as sports arenas and the facilities that host Presidential debates and other important public functions serving not only campus communities, but the cities and towns where they are located. We must maintain a welcoming environment while simultaneously protecting laboratory facilities critical to medicine, information technology, and basic sciences that contribute to business, individual health, and national defense.

There are a number of critical safety challenges facing colleges and universities today. At the top of the list are issues related to high risk drinking and the use and abuse of illegal and controlled prescription drugs. Each year, we lose more than 1600 students from unintentional alcohol related injuries. Abuse of controlled drugs has risen substantially. The negative outcomes related directly to alcohol and drug abuse include poor academic performance, depression, anxiety, suicide, and unwanted sexual advances. The problem has reached devastating levels, prompting the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University to say that we are “wasting the best and the brightest.” Campus public safety agencies are key partners in addressing these critical challenges.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have further complicated our mission. It's no secret that campuses have many elements that make them attractive targets for terrorism. These elements include international communities, sensitive research materials, controversial research projects, sporting venues that accommodate tens of thousands of spectators, and visits by high profile dignitaries. Campuses have been identified by FBI Director Robert Mueller as “soft targets” for terrorists in testimony before Congress in February of 2003

Our community is a diverse group whose institutions range from two-year community colleges and small private colleges to large, public four-year universities. Campus public safety is provided in a variety of ways; some institutions have sworn, armed officers with full police powers, while others have non-sworn, unarmed officers and still others have contract security. We work within different college and university governance structures and under an array of Federal and local laws.

Given the increasing complexity of campus public safety and the diverse social fabric of our colleges and universities, I am still able to report to you that campuses are reasonably safe when compared to the larger communities in which they exist. That said, we must continually review and, when necessary, enhance our policies and procedures to address new and emerging challenges. We must ensure we have adequate resources to deal with a full spectrum of incidents that may occur on our campuses.

As an association, IACLEA, along with our partners in the IACP College and University Policing Section, are at the forefront of campus public safety. I would like to discuss four

areas where we are leading the way. I have submitted additional materials that supplement my prepared statement.

### Training and Emergency Preparedness

Since 2004, grant support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has enabled IACLEA to develop a variety of training programs and emergency planning resources for campus public safety departments in the U.S. These programs include a one-day All-Hazards Awareness class that has trained more than 4,500 emergency responders. IACLEA developed this program in conjunction with Louisiana State University. We are also delivering a three-day Incident Command System course that has trained more than 700 campus and non-campus command-level staff in its first year of operation. This training, while hosted by campus public safety agencies, includes state and local law enforcement. On April 16, we witnessed the VT Police, the Blacksburg Police, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia State Police, the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives working seamlessly together in their response to this horrific event at the University. That response underscores how imperative it is that campus public safety agencies train and exercise with their law enforcement partners outside of campus. To assist in delivering this very important program, IACLEA has established 4 training sites throughout the country. Current sites are at the University of Maryland, Florida State University, Rice University, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. We have also implemented a mobile version of this training which allows us to move the program around the country to various campuses.

IACLEA, in concert with Texas A&M University, has developed a Threat and Risk Assessment Tool to assist campus executives in performing an assessment of their vulnerabilities and implementing solutions identified during the assessment. In so doing, the capacity of the University to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from catastrophic events, both natural and human-made, is enhanced. While the instrument is designed as a self-administered tool, some colleges and universities have expressed a desire for on-site technical assistance in carrying out the assessment. We will work with DHS to establish this capacity.

### Resources for Campus Public Safety Agencies

DHS and the FBI partnered with IACLEA to produce a "Lessons Learned" white paper based on the experiences of Gulf Coast campuses during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as the experiences of Oklahoma University and Georgia Tech University with explosives on their campuses in September 2005. We distributed an executive summary of this report to members of Congress, federal executive agencies, and national associations of higher education. This white paper sets forth specific recommendations to enhance campus preparedness for catastrophic events, from weather-related incidents to terrorism. We also distributed this document to campuses across the nation and other national law enforcements associations.

IACLEA has developed a web-based Campus Preparedness Resource Center, which features best practices in emergency preparedness, communications with first responders, and comprehensive guidelines for developing emergency management plans. We continue to encourage and support our members in their long range planning and critical incident training. Along with training to prepare for natural and other disasters, IACLEA also offers educational workshops at its annual conference and other training venues. Training topics include campus crime prevention, suicide prevention, programs to combat violence against women, and alcohol and substance abuse prevention. To further illustrate this point, two weeks ago the Mid-Atlantic Region of IACLEA teamed with the New Jersey College and University Public Safety Association to hold a two-day training seminar focusing on Pandemic Flu planning, Interoperability, and Gang Awareness and Response. Again, our partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and other associations enhance our ability to provide first- rate training to colleges and universities.

IACLEA reaches nearly half of all traditional higher education institutions. While this is a significant number, we need to ensure all colleges and universities are committed to and have access to high quality information, best practices, and training. Greater Federal, state and local support for campus public safety agencies – whether at public or private institutions – would provide greater training opportunities and other necessary resources for campus public safety.

Campus public safety agencies are not explicitly recognized as potential recipients of federal funds administered by the DHS or the Justice Department. This presents a major challenge in many states when decisions are made about the allocation of formula grants funds. We urge Congress to consider creating a dedicated funding stream to strengthen public safety on our nation's campuses.

### National Center for Campus Public Safety

In late 2004, the US Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services convened a National Summit on Campus Public Safety. The Summit brought together 40 nationally-recognized subject matter experts on campus public safety, campus risk management and emergency preparedness to engage in this important dialogue. A consensus recommendation from the Summit was the need to establish a National Center for Campus Public Safety to support research, information sharing, best and model practices, and strategic planning.

Tomorrow, I will be meeting with the COPS Office and the National Center for Campus Public Safety Advisory Board to further develop the framework for this center. A National Center will be an invaluable resource for all who have a stake in campus public safety, and thus the success of our colleges and universities.

### Accreditation

IACLEA received funding from the COPS Office to begin developing an accreditation program to recognize those campus public safety agencies that adhere to the highest standards of professionalism, training, and excellence. IACLEA has four pilot agencies participating in the Accreditation process and has received 13 applications from institutions seeking IACLEA Accreditation.

### Summary

Protecting our nation's colleges and universities is a partnership among Federal, State and local agencies. This partnership is developing, but it needs to be stronger. Our campuses are significant assets in our shared responsibility for crime prevention and control and Homeland Security.

In light of the tragic events at Virginia Tech, we will work with the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime and the U.S. Secret Service Threat Assessment Center to expand previous studies of middle and high school aged shooters, to take a very deliberate, separate look at rampage shooters on college and university campuses. IACLEA will work with national associations of higher education, our external law enforcement partners and individual campuses to adopt a 4-point risk management strategy that we believe may help us prevent future tragedies like Virginia Tech.

#### Point 1:

We are aggressively promoting the use of the IACLEA Threat and Risk Assessment instrument. We are confident that this tool will help campuses identify and prioritize vulnerabilities tied to known and potential threats. Rampage shooters, which have always represented a potential threat, now move to the top of the list.

#### Point 2:

We will work with our federal partners and individual campuses to create multi-disciplinary assessment teams, comprised of student affairs professionals, counselors and psychologists, substance abuse professionals and campus public safety to develop a structure and methodology for addressing those in the campus community who are potential threats.

#### Point 3:

We intend to fast track our efforts to provide a comprehensive tool to assist campuses in evaluating their physical security environments. This tool must take into account the need for a layered approach to security on campus, beginning with highly trained professional campus public officers, the appropriate implementation of security technology such as cameras with smart analytics, and crime prevention through environmental design. I should also note that of particular interest is the need for mass, emergency notification systems that have appropriate capacity, security and redundancy, as well as experience and focus on the higher education community. These

systems must be capable of reaching our community members using several methodologies, including landline phones, cellular phones, text messaging, and email.

Point 4:

Finally, we want to ensure that rapid response training is made available to all campuses that need it. On the IACLEA List Serve this past week, I have seen repeated emails asking for additional training and resources for active shooter response. On Thursday, I'll be meeting the Bureau of Justice Assistance to discuss how they can assist us in providing that training in the very near future. Director Domingo Herraiz, the head of BJA, has committed to supporting is in this endeavor.

We believe this 4-Point approach not only addresses potential gaps that may exist on some campuses, but it will also establish a framework for systematically addressing other safety and security challenges.

In closing, I would like to add that for the past 49 years, IACLEA has worked to advance campus public safety. We understand the vital role our colleges and universities play in ensuring democracy throughout the world. We are committed to our mission of protecting and serving students, faculty, staff and visitors on our campuses. We will continue to be an advocate for the more than 30,000 public safety officers in America whose special mission is to protect and serve over 4,000 unique communities.

Thank you for your interest and commitment to this very important issue. I would also like to thank DHS, the FBI, the Justice Department and the Department of Education for their support, along with the many state and local agencies who are our partners. These partnerships are vital to fulfilling our promise to ensure that every campus community remains safe and open.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation.