

Quincy College



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The Serious Matter of Campus Security: Quincy College Tackles Campus Preparedness with September 18th Active Shooter Training Event on Plymouth Campus



Accompanying Images:(IMG _IGP0410, _IGP0415, _IGP0417)

Suggested Caption: Plymouth Police Department, Plymouth Fire Department, Brewster Ambulance, and Plymouth County Sheriff's Department and Quincy College held an Active Shooter Training Exercise at the Quincy College Plymouth Campus on Sunday, September 18th.

Social Media Release: (137 characters): A Serious Matter: #QuincyCollege tackles campus preparedness and safety w/9.18 active shooter training & safety measure implementation

Plymouth, MA (9/23/2016) - We live in an chaotic world where personal safety and security are discussed on nearly a daily basis. Academic institutions are no exception. Quincy College is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, and staff where the focus is teaching and learning. From gun violence to emergency situations, campus preparedness and the communication in the actuality of an event is critical.

On Sunday, September 18, Quincy College in conjunction with the Plymouth Police Department, Plymouth Fire Department, Brewster Ambulance, and Plymouth County Sheriff's Department held an Active Shooter Training exercise on the Quincy College Plymouth Campus located at 36 Cordage Park in Plymouth. This event, entitled "Operation Cordage Shield" simulated an active shooter event from the point of incident through the emergency response to subsequent administration and police actions in response to such events. A similar event was conducted on Quincy College's Quincy Campus in November of last year.

Reflecting on the Active Shooter Training, Quincy College President, Peter H. Tsaffaras, J.D., stated, "Yesterday's training was a significant visual demonstration of the steps we have taken to prepare for what we hope will never occur here at Quincy College. While no college can ever say

they are ready for the violent and unexpected events which we have seen occur around the nation we can and have taken steps to prepare for the unthinkable should it occur. Both the administration and staff found it to be valuable to conduct this campus preparedness exercise on both Quincy College campuses, in Quincy and Plymouth, to ensure that we are adequately prepared in the event of unexpected circumstances."

Campus preparedness is an initiative President Tsaffaras enacted when he became president of Quincy College in 2011 and it has remained paramount throughout his tenure, informing the day-to-day operations of Quincy College.

In 2012, Quincy College conducted an All-Hazards Risk Assessment which resulted in forty-seven recommendations including enhancing electronic security systems, emergency response planning, physical security systems, behavioral threat assessment, business continuity, policies and procedures, training and coordination with local emergency response agencies. To date all forty-seven recommendations from the report have been implemented and three additional recommendations have been created and are in the process of being implemented.

Reviewing the complete spectrum of campus preparedness and subsequent actions needed, Quincy College created a Crisis Team and a Behavioral and Threat Assessment Management Team (BTAM) tasked with updating all facets of the College's campus safety. Most recently, BTAM has updated the College's Emergency Response Plan. The BTAM team is comprised of staff, faculty, and administration and outside consultants. In addition to these teams, Quincy College meets monthly with the Quincy and Plymouth Police Departments to improve information sharing and police response.

The College has expanded the responsibilities of their full-time Resource Officers on both the Plymouth and Quincy campuses. Beyond staffing, the college has created a timely warning notification system with push alerts out to the college community, installed an extensive 24-hour video surveillance network, and prepared campus emergency response guides for faculty/staff and students. In addition, the College has held on-going trainings and table-top exercises to better prepare and train staff and faculty.

Prior to his tenure at Quincy College, President Tsaffaras was Deputy Commissioner of Employee Relations at the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and was instrumental in the development of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' campus safety report titled "Campus Violence Prevention and Response: Best Practices for Massachusetts Higher Education" (June 2008). The report made many recommendations to improve upon the safety of higher education institutions throughout the Commonwealth and advised that: "in addition to preventing and preparing for the most extreme forms of campus violence, colleges and universities must also take precautionary steps to prevent these more common forms of violence from occurring." (2)

"The September 18th training could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of the Plymouth Police Department, with whom the College has had a long-standing, positive relationship. Many officers noted that it was helpful to know the layout of the campus as a result of the exercise," said President Peter H. Tsaffaras.

Reflecting on the day's events, "Operation Cordage Shield held on the Quincy College Plymouth Campus was an excellent training exercise for not only the Plymouth Police Department but for the greater community-at-large. From first responders on-site to the 911 dispatchers, these exercises help facilitate communication and collaboration between not only the Plymouth Police Department and Quincy College but also communication and collaboration with other

organizations like the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office, the Plymouth Fire Department, and Emergency Services. These exercises ensure that the community on campus and the surrounding Town of Plymouth will be better prepared in an emergency situation. Quincy College's initiative in creating an emergency preparedness plan, collaborating closely with the Plymouth Police Department, Plymouth County Sheriff's Office, Plymouth Fire Department, and Emergency Services and taking a critical role in Active Shooter training are exemplary," stated Michael Botieri, Chief of Police, Plymouth Police Department.

Dan O'Neill, Founder, CEO, and President of Advanced Data Risk Management has worked as a consultant offering support to Quincy College's Behavioral and Threat Assessment Management Team. Mr. O'Neill has over 20 years of security consulting experience dedicated to managing risk and protecting the lives of others during emergency situations. In 2001, he founded and served as the Chairman, President and CEO of Applied Risk Management (ARM) where he led security engagements for clients throughout the world including Europe, South America, Asia and the Middle East. Notable clients included Logan Airport, Harvard University, MIT, the Empire State Building, U.S. Embassies around the world, Level 4 biosafety laboratories capable of housing the Ebola virus and worldwide military bases. He successfully sold ARM in 2011, and subsequently started a new company called Advanced Data Risk Management (ADRM).

When asked about Quincy College's emergency preparedness, Mr. O'Neill stated: "Quincy College is committed to the safety and security of all students, faculty and staff. This is balanced with campuses that are designed to foster an open exchange and sharing of information which is conducive to the higher education process. The coordinated active shooter exercises held on both the Quincy Campus and the Plymouth Campus are demonstrative of Quincy College's continued commitment to safety and security and dedication to preparedness during uncertain times. Thank you to the police, fire, EMS as well as the students, faculty and staff for your participation. Your efforts have made Quincy College safer and more secure. "

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About Quincy College

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,500 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 35 associate degree programs and 21 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, Natural & Health Sciences and Nursing. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu