

WSU Pullman – Campus Safety Enhancements

SUMMARY

WSU continues to look for ways to improve campus safety at WSU Pullman. This includes installing security cameras in high-risk areas in more than 75 campus buildings and over 300 public spaces—increasing coverage to approximately 65% of all public spaces throughout campus, an increase of more than 55% of current capacity. These efforts will provide WSU Police access to video footage in areas of campus that currently have no coverage. This project will also include adding exterior door access control management to 50 primary academic buildings, including the student union building and student recreation centers.

WSU is also reviewing improvements to athletic event security, particularly for football and basketball games, and is researching state-of-the-art weapon detection technology that could be deployed at Gesa Field and moved to Beasley Coliseum or other locations when needed. More advanced than traditional metal detectors, this technology can identify concealed firearms and is capable of screening 2,000 people per hour per device, or 4,000 for a double lane device, allowing WSU to sustain a positive fan experience while screening for weapons with the best technology on the market.

Drones are also a security and nuisance concern for WSU Pullman and at Gesa Field during home football games. A drone flying over or landing inside the stadium would require immediately stopping the game and a partial evacuation of the stadium. WSU is reviewing systems that can identify drones and the location of the operator within a three-mile radius of the stadium as part of our larger security needs.

IDENTIFIED NEED

Ensuring the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and guests on our campuses is our highest priority. Increasing safety measures will not only facilitate a safer campus for all but will also increase prospective students and their families' confidence in WSU to provide a safe space for living and learning.

With a community of almost 33,000 in Pullman and 25,800 in Moscow, Idaho, WSU Pullman Police are working with local communities and our counterparts at the University of Idaho to provide professional and compassionate policing, innovation, transparency, and positive engagement both on and off campus.

The security systems, cameras, card-swipe access, and door control systems on the WSU Pullman campus will continue to be available to local and regional law enforcement. Occasionally local law enforcement requests video and other data for criminal investigations that may involve those who have been on campus. By enhancing campus security systems and sharing security system information with local and regional law enforcement, we can contribute to a safer community.

CONCLUSION

The campus, as well as the surrounding community, has long enjoyed low crime rates and the general sense of safety it brings. We know that recent incidents have had an impact on those feelings of safety, and we want to stress our continued focus on overall public safety at WSU. We believe these additional security upgrades — additional security cameras, electronic card-swipe access, and door control to campus housing and other facilities — will continue to support the safest possible environment for all.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

GLYNDA BECKER FENTER

Assistant Vice President for Federal Engagement & Advocacy
Washington State University
202-434-4966 | glynda.becker@wsu.edu

JACOB DOWD

Assistant Director for Federal Relations
Washington State University
402-730-2857 | jacob.dowd@wsu.edu