COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING:
CAMPUS WEST CONNECTIONS
BUILDING STRONG CONNECTIONS AND PROMOTING NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE BY ENGAGING THE CAMPUS WEST COMMUNITY THROUGH PROACTIVE EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND OUTREACH

CAMPUS WEST CONNECTIONS
A first of its kind community-oriented policing concept that connects long-term residents in Fort Collins and Colorado State University students to work together as neighbors to increase the quality of life for all community members.

COMMUNITY WELCOME
Colorado State University students are connected with police, staff, and residents who instruct students on how to be good neighbors.

PARTY REGISTRATION
Students can avoid tickets by registering parties in advance.

COMMUNITY LIASON
A City of Fort Collins-CSU co-funded community liaison position to improve communication and coordination.

CWC FACILITY
A collaborative meeting space and resource for nearby organizations, students, and police.
THE SECRET SAUCE

Identify common interests (addressing student behavior)
Take responsibility for making things better
Equal partnerships, equal ownership for problems
Remove money, ego, and turf from the process
Find ways for each partner to add value
Remove barriers (exchange information)
Build trusting relationships

LESSONS LEARNED

All partners equally committed to the community
Equal ownership of problems, looking for places where we can each contribute to solutions
Understand each organization's perspectives and processes
Intentionally build trust between partners
Not a “one size fits all”; start where you are
Look at things from a systems level
Take chances to build programs

Q & A

Does CSU have its own police department?
There is a CSU police department with sworn officers. Their jurisdiction is predominantly limited to campus where they are in charge of law enforcement and patrolling. They are great partners and often engage in off-campus situations. However, 75% of CSU students live off-campus in the Fort Collins community, so we rely heavily on the Fort Collins police department.

Is there any mandatory training for incoming students with law enforcement?
Anyone can sign up to participate in the workshops but there isn't much voluntary participation. Most students participate by being mandated to do so.

Rams Around the Fort is an exception. We provide it during the fall semester for first-year seminars. We are typically invited by faculty to use one of their class periods. In the spring, we work with residence halls to do a large campaign to cover the same topics. We do a lot of active and passive programming for first-year students as they prepare to leave campus.

Rams Around the Fort is a really good example of small wins leading to big wins. At first, we weren't doing any workshops proactively; it was all sanctions-based. We took a risk to go into some classes that our students said they were growing in year by year because of the response we were getting. More and more instructors are understanding value we provide. Our influence is growing year by year and we are getting into more and more spaces.

Have you found having a non-enforcement officer as your Community Liaison increased communication between law enforcement and the neighborhood?
The Community Liaison works between the city on the larger scale and the university on a larger scale, not necessarily the police department. Jenn does spend a great deal of time communicating with police officers. She has been on several ride-alongs and used briefings to talk about things. I do think it adds a degree of enhanced communication for the policing function to have someone like Jenn as a strong member of our team.

Do you oversee or currently have a program in other non-campus environments, say apartment complexes, HOAs, or some other non-owner-occupied property?
That's why it's important that Jenn is associated with neighborhood services component because we do a lot of that. In addition, our education for neighborhoods, landlord, and property owners. We use her specifically in neighborhoods with lots of students where we take what we have and customize it.

We also do housing for every year with off-campus life. We show up as a partner to let students know how the city can support you and some things they need to know as they move out.

Jenn also sits on a number of university committees—sometimes over 20. She moves around and the role moves around quite a bit. Because of all the information she glean from various partners she is able to contribute by informing us about what's happening out in the community, connecting us with potential partners or key people who need to be part of the conversation and providing statistics and access to additional resources.

How is the program this partnership and Campus West, in particular being funded?
The lease for the GWC space, which is probably the smallest amount of this partnership, is paid for by the city. The university pays for some programs and associated costs.

The Community Liaison is a CSU employee. CSU invoices Neighborhood Services at the city for half of the salary and fringe benefits, as well as programming dollars.

Holistically, as things come up we take a systems-level look. We ask who has the resources for which piece. It's an ongoing conversation with us about where marketing materials come from, where do we get resources for shared programming, how are we managing budgets on both the city and campus side, and to get a one-size-fits-all, it's where we have resources. How are we managing those resources, where are there things already incorporated into our budget that we can leverage and take advantage of.

LEARN MORE

See the AfI presentation
Watch a short video
Review slides from the presentation