

Ms. Gloria Aparicio-Blackwell
(nominated by University of MD Department of Public Safety, College Park)

Ms. Blackwell is the Assistant Director of Community Relations at the University of Maryland in College Park. As such, she spearheads the following three programs:

The Center for Educational Partnership, located in Riverdale, brings together three non-profit organizations and two University of Maryland Units (University Extension and the School of Public Health) to create a rich variety of services. These include but are not limited to, college readiness workshops, community gardens, bike programs, HIV awareness outreach, ESOL programs, study skills, and more.

In conjunction with the College of Education and other academic units, the Office of Community Relations with the Vice President for Administrative Affairs established a partnership with Paint Branch Elementary School. The school is located in the historically African American Lakeland community of College Park. This partnership embodies the University's strong relationship with the surrounding community while enriching the students' educational experience and overall academic performance. It also supports the University's efforts to encourage living and working in College Park. Specifically, faculty and staff might consider living in College Park knowing that the local public school receives special attention from the State's Flagship University.

Good Neighbor Day represents an annual cross-campus service project reflecting a renewed commitment by the University of Maryland community to being a good neighbor in the city of College Park. This initiative focuses on clean-up efforts that contribute to a great quality of life for all College Park students. Held the last Saturday of March 2012, over 200 participants came out, among them elected officials, K-12 students, public safety officers from several jurisdictions, college students, local residents, and employees.

Though Ms. Blackwell does far more than working with these three programs, they showcase how meaningful outreach can play a significant role in crime prevention, particularly in underserved and/or emergent communities. By supporting nonprofits, area schools, and community engagement, the programs all make for a safer place to live, work, and play.

Mr. Charles L. Simpson, Jr.
(nominated by University of MD Department of Public Safety, College Park)

The University of Maryland Department of Public Safety partnered with Southern Management to create a new Community Police Office near the campus. The new facility is now in place and was the vision of Mr. Charles L. Simpson, Jr., Manager for the complex. He envisioned a high-visibility satellite location for the police to serve the residents. The satellite office will provide a venue for officers to work, meet with residents on their "turf", and make phone calls (that would otherwise be made through police headquarters). The most significant and immediate

benefit to the community is a decreased response time to emergency calls for service and increased visibility on a busy thoroughfare known as the “cut through” for local residents in the surrounding areas.

University of Maryland and Southern Management hosted an Open House for community members to tour the new facility. The Crime Prevention Unit will base its efforts from this space, and the department hopes to open the space to patrol officers looking to host town hall forums or informational sessions with the community. The Division of Student Affairs has also decided to team up with the effort and is installing three security cameras within the complex. They are an obvious partner since hundreds of graduate students and their young families reside in the complex.

Mr. Simpson started his career with Southern Management in 1994 and has been the Property Manager at Graduate Hills and Gardens for the last nine years. During that time he earned the status of Property Manager Master, an internal certification, in 2010. He is the father of three and a youth football and basketball coach. Mr. Simpson advocated for the police department to get the 550 square foot space for the Community Police Office donated at no cost. Through the efforts of Mr. Simpson and his management team, that goal has been accomplished. A consistent and clear police presence in the community has been created, and consequently, community policing is being welcomed by more residents. Annual Neighborhood Safety Walks are taking place, Neighborhood Watch groups are being formed, crime prevention materials are being distributed, and free citizen training relative to crime reduction is taking place. These are just a few of the positive results of the formation of the Community Police Office.

***Mr. Gerry Sneeringer
(nominated by University of MD Department of Public Safety, College Park)***

Mr. Gerry Sneeringer is the Director of Security and Policy in the Division of Information Technology and the University’s Chief Information Security Officer. He is charged with driving the development of the University’s IT security strategy, insuring University compliance with federal, state and University IT security policy, collaborating with campus researchers to bring real world experience to their academic pursuits, and working with IT professionals through the University to protect its data.

On March 10, 2012 the University of Maryland Police Department in College Park received a phone call from a concerned citizen stating that he had observed threatening posts on a website relative to a shooting rampage on campus. Several hours later, another concerned citizen called about a similar website posting, and a few hours after that, a third call was received from yet another concerned citizen relative to this. Detectives contacted Mr. Sneeringer for assistance in locating users on the University of Maryland network that visited both of the websites noted during the timeframe of the postings. Mr. Sneeringer was instrumental in identifying key pieces which enabled detectives to find the location from which these messages were being sent and who the sender was. The incident became critical in the

early hours of a Sunday morning. Mr. Sneeringer was able to “remote” into the campus system from home and spent numerous hours assisting on this case. Through his expertise and dedication, he assisted police with identifying and apprehending an individual who may have carried out a violent attack against the campus community.

The University of Maryland believes a secure environment can be made possible only through community involvement. Unfortunately, many people do not want to get involved and often have what is called the “bystander effect”. Mr. Sneeringer decided to combat this mentality and helped stop this crime from ever occurring. He willingly and without hesitation lent his time and expertise to help solve this case. Attacks on college campuses are a much bigger problem than many people realize. Mr. Sneeringer’s heroic work and time assisting with this case helped end a plot by a lone student that could easily have turned disastrous.