

A MESSAGE FROM **Campus Safety**

Dear Union College Community Member:

I wanted to provide an update to my note from last Friday about the recent robbery of a student on campus. Following that incident, the College has received two additional reports about two additional similar incidents on or near campus.

In the first incident, a student reported that while walking across campus at around 8:40 p.m. last Thursday, he was approached by two males at the bottom of the staircase near West College. The suspects took money from the student, who was not injured during the incident. The suspects then left campus.

The College notified Schenectady Police and sent out a RAVE notice alerting the campus community of the crime. The alert was sent because the suspects were not immediately visible on security cameras so it was considered an ongoing threat.

Since that robbery, the Schenectady Police are investigating two more incidents that occurred on or near campus. Several hours after the first incident, at 11:48 p.m. Thursday, a student reported being approached and asked for money by two individuals near St. John the Evangelist Church, which is located across from the College's main entrance. No money was taken.

On Friday, Sept. 30, at around 5:15 p.m., an employee reported an individual in the parking lot near Achilles Rink approached him and asked for money. The victim handed him money and the suspect left campus on foot.

In both of these latter incidents, the suspects were clearly seen leaving the campus area and Schenectady Police responded immediately to the area. No alert was sent because there was deemed to be no immediate threat to the campus.

Schenectady Police believe at least two of the three cases may be related. In all three cases, the victims said the suspects may have had a gun, but Schenectady Police have not been able to confirm that. No one was injured in any of the incidents.

All three incidents are under active investigation by Schenectady Police. Both Campus Safety and the Schenectady Police have increased patrols on and around the campus. As I mentioned last week, it is important to remember that we are located in an open and densely populated setting.

The campus and surrounding neighborhood are generally safe, but we share many of the crime and safety issues that exist in any city or college campus.

Safety tips

There are steps we can all take to help minimize the risk of a crime occurring.

- Be alert to your surroundings as you walk around the campus and in the Schenectady community.
- Be mindful of [personal safety practices](#) and use the “buddy system” when going out and avoid walking alone at night.
- Security escorts are available at any time on campus by calling Campus Safety at (518) 388-6911 or extension 6911.
- Additionally, there are numerous “blue light” emergency phones on campus that allow for direct connection to Campus Safety.
- If you see suspicious behavior, do not confront an individual. Please contact Campus Safety. It is useful to put this number on the speed dial in your cell phone. You can also dial 9-1-1 at any time for an emergency.

We appreciate your help as we work together to keep the campus safe.

Best,

Tom Constantine, interim director of Campus Safety