

*(“Incidents in the Classroom” continued)*

If a situation is physically violent and “flight” is not an option or is not an acceptable option, a last resort is a “fight” response. In this case, students and stakeholders involved take direct physical action together “in mass” to overwhelm and control the violent individual until police can arrive. Calling 911 immediately is definitely required in this situation. All local area law enforcement officers, including WSU Vancouver Police, have and continue to receive ongoing training specific to school violence and response.

Washington State University Vancouver continues to improve its ability to provide warning and notification of immediate situational and environmental emergency situations affecting the campus. Within the 2008-2009 academic year, the Campus Outdoor Warning System will be installed. This system will consist of siren/public announcement units mounted on the exterior of campus buildings to emit siren tone warnings and voice announcements providing information in the event of an emergency situation. This system is primarily directed for notification to individuals who are outdoors or moving about the campus.

The second key addition to our emergency warning and notification capability is the Emergency Notification System (ENS). This system offers direct contact to students, faculty, and staff via land line or cell phones using voice messaging, text messaging, and e-mail to provide warnings in the event of an emergency situation, as well as basic emergency response instructions. While institutional phones and e-mail will be automatically included in the system, receipt of emergency alerts on personal cell phones, personal land lines, and non-university e-mail will require registration. Registration can be easily accomplished online at the myWSU portal site ([www.vancouver.wsu.edu](http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu)).

In addition to the Campus Outdoor Warning System and ENS, the WSU Vancouver Campus now employs an Interior Loudhailer System that allows direct verbal notification to individuals located inside campus buildings during an emergency.

To facilitate heightened awareness of safety on campus, WSU Vancouver Department of Public Safety will be offering a training class in November which will include the video “Shots Fired.” This presentation is intended to provide campus stakeholders with exposure to possible sights and sounds of violent confrontations and to present training for an on-campus response.

Please watch for announcements regarding times and locations for this training and keep yourself informed of campus safety alerts by visiting the WSU Vancouver Public Safety Community Alerts page online at: <http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/adm/fo/psafety/alerts.htm>.

## Incidents in the Classroom

High school and college campuses nationwide share in the current and ongoing concerns regarding classroom violence and disturbances. WSU Vancouver is no exception to these concerns or to the recent focus on campus safety.

WSU Vancouver is committed to maintaining an environment that is free from all acts or threats of violence perpetrated by or against employees, students, or members of the public (BPPM 50.30). In light of this, and to ensure greater awareness of personal safety for all campus stakeholders, it is critically important students, faculty, and other campus stakeholders become familiar with policies for violence prevention, as well as with strategies for handling a possible encounter with verbally or even physically violent individuals on this or any other campus.

While on University property or while conducting University business at other locations, each employee, student, or individual is prohibited from subjecting any other employee, student, or individual to violence or threat of violence.

Violent action on University property or facilities, or while on University business, will not be tolerated or ignored. Individuals who engage in violent or threatening behavior may be:

- Removed from the premises;
- Subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or expulsion; and/or
- Subject to arrest and criminal prosecution.

In classrooms, the instructor is responsible for classroom control. If a student or individual is simply upset, raises their voice, or is involved in a “passionate debate,” the instructor can usually control and end the confrontation. If a confrontation involves strange and disturbing behavior or threats of violence, students should strongly consider calling 911 as soon as possible to report the behavior.

For situations on campus that involve a violent confrontation including use of hands/fists through use of a weapon, consider the “Fight or Flight” response in which you have a choice to disengage and leave the area or fight to protect yourself.

If you are made uncomfortable, or are concerned for your safety or the safety of others by the actions or behavior of another, move to a safe location and call 911 as soon as possible to report the issue and get help. This action is always an appropriate response to danger or perceived danger and includes classroom situations.

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