



# News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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## **National Safety Council designates Western Kentucky University a Safe Community**

Itasca, IL – Today, Western Kentucky University becomes an accredited Safe Community by the [National Safety Council](#) through its Safe Communities America program. Western Kentucky University is the fourth academic institution, and the 25th Safe Community in the United States.

“When I first became aware of the Safe Communities program, I immediately saw the potential to bring together our campus community focused around the safety of our students, faculty, staff and visitors,” David Oliver, director of environmental health and safety and co-chair of the Western Kentucky University Safe Communities coalition, said. “It provides a strong framework for collaboration, with a valuable recognition component. Our coalition members were very energized from the start, and were all very proud of their respective programs and the impact they have on campus safety.”

The Safe Communities America program is a proven approach to community injury reduction structured around a broad coalition of community partners - involving business, civic organizations, local government, non-profits, and local residents.

The application process was completed in July 2014 when Safe Community reviewers visited Western Kentucky University for a two-day tour. The visit included an overview of injury prevention efforts and programs on campus.

“We have been very impressed with the way all stakeholders at Western Kentucky University are working together to stay safe,” said Donna Stein-Harris, senior director of Safe Communities America for the National Safety Council. “It is evident that WKU has a strong coalition and a never-ending desire to learn from the past, evaluate the present and work on a better future. They are better positioned to prevent injuries and deaths through this collaborative approach.”

The Safe Communities America National Certifying Center at the National Safety Council guides community stakeholders to reduce injuries and promote safety for the residents of their community.

For more information, please visit [safecommunitiesamerica.org](http://safecommunitiesamerica.org).

### **About the National Safety Council**

Founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress, the National Safety Council, [nsc.org](http://nsc.org), is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads through leadership, research, education and advocacy. NSC advances this mission by partnering with businesses, government agencies, elected officials and the public in areas that can make the most impact – distracted driving, teen driving, workplace safety, prescription drug overdoses and Safe Communities.

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