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## Lindenwood Enhances Campus Safety with Armed Security Officers

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**August 14, 2023**

Lindenwood University cares deeply about campus security and making our on- and off-campus communities safer places to learn, live, and work. To meet best practices of campus safety and enhance our ability to respond immediately to life-threatening incidents, 10 of Lindenwood University's 22-member [Department of Public Safety and Security](#) will be armed starting in the Fall of 2023.

Due to the upward trend in campus violence, life threatening events like active-shooter scenarios are of particular concern to colleges and universities across the country. Most of these incidents occur in just minutes, and while unlikely, we need our most experienced campus safety professionals to have the ability to respond immediately, reasonably, and responsibly to protect the campus community.

The plan to partially arm our public safety officers has been thoughtfully developed in collaboration with campus stakeholders and local law enforcement. It aligns to peer institutions as well as policies, procedures, and training within federal, state, and institutional guidelines.

The 10 officers authorized to carry a firearm all have prior law enforcement or military experience; underwent background checks; completed Eastern Missouri Police Academy firearms training and additional training that meets statute requirements in St. Charles County. Qualified officers are mandated to wear body cameras and also commit to ongoing education and assessment to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements and campus safety best practices.

Having a partially armed Department of Public Safety and Security to address life-threatening incidents does not change the primary role and responsibility of the majority of Lindenwood's Public Safety Officers. The Department of Public Safety and Security will continue to focus on proactive crime prevention and public safety services to the campus community. These include 24/7 patrols, walking escorts, closed-circuit television monitoring, and more. The department also will continue to work closely with the St. Charles Police, the only entity responsible for arrests and charges. Additional information is available in the Frequently Asked Questions below.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority and we are grateful to the Department of Public Safety and Security for its diligence and commitment to that end.

Sincerely,

John R. Porter