

Warning: Don't call them guards

Erin Carey
The Clackamas Print

If there's one thing that Clackamas Community College's Head of Security Suzy Isham, wants us all to know, it's that she's not a "security guard". It's little known that our campus safety officers are more than Taser-toting security guards, as most would think. In fact, Isham and the rest of the officers at CCC have a much larger role.

"All of the campus safety officers that we have, as well as Harmony and Wilsonville, we are all special deputies through Clackamas County Sheriff's office, so we all have full police powers here to enforce the law," Isham said. "As such, we all carry weapons, because we're police officers."

Although campus security comprises special deputies through CCSO, they are their own department. Eriks Gabliks, the deputy director of the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, comments on their lack of connection to CCC.

"Clackamas Community College is not recognized by our department," said Gabliks.

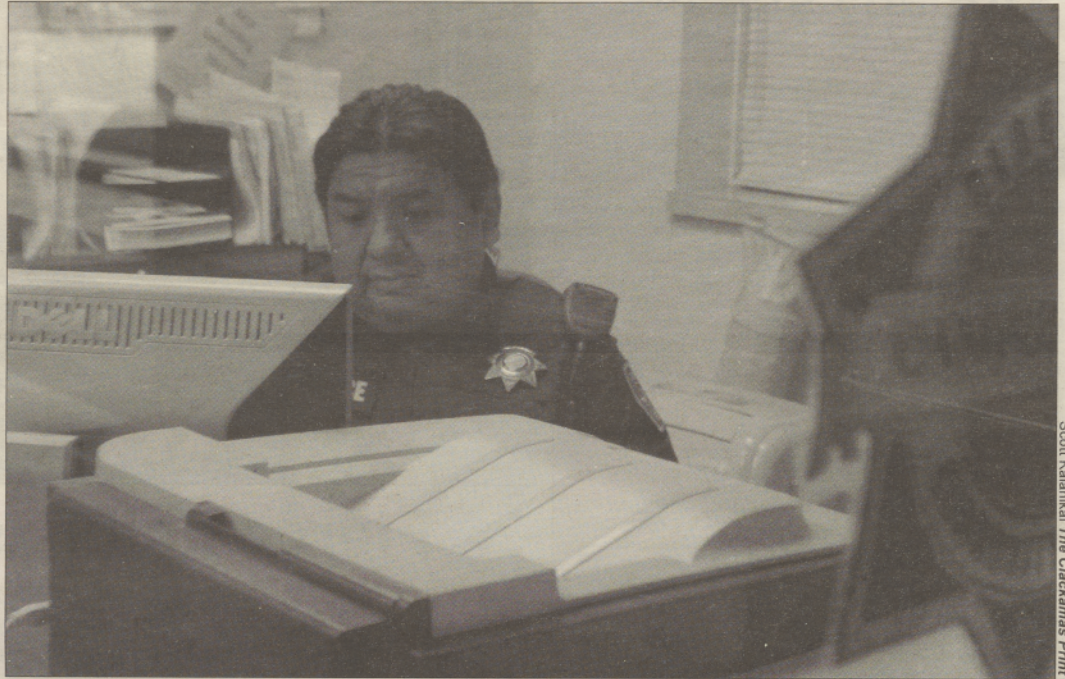
Campus safety is an entity that functions on its own, bringing students the security that they need, especially during a time when school shootings have dominated headlines.

With the focus on school-based shootings it's no wonder that there might be rising concern around campus about the amount of security we're surrounded by. In fact, according to Isham, CCC is the only campus to be armed in Oregon.

Isham and her team of seven police officers and student campus safety cadets work year round on campus, answering calls about everything that happens on campus.

"If something happens, we're not calling 9-1-1. We are 9-1-1," Isham said.

CCC's Campus Safety is support-



Campus Security Officer Brain Azule sits at his desk typing up paper work. The campus safety office is located in McLoughlin 114.

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ed by Oregon City's police and fire departments, along with Clackamas County's fire department and sheriff's office. campus safety also supports relationships with Oregon City, West Linn, Milwaukie, and Gladstone's first responders so if that they are called to the campus, all are well aware of the campus and its layout.

Campus safety has taken extensive measures in CCC's safety, not only at Oregon City's campus, but its satellite campuses as well. Isham's team is working to put together a staff and student emergency response guide for various situations, covering everything from man-made to natural

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Suzy Isham
Clackamas Community College's Head of Security

disasters. They are currently working on building emergency response teams, which will be trained and given equipment in case of emergency. Student Annie Sharpe comments on Campus Safety's current presence. Sharpe said,

"I've seen them [campus safety] around. I guess I've never felt terribly fearful although it might be nice to see a little more security around here once in awhile."

This seems to be a theme when asking students around CCC, who seem to be unaware of all the issues that campus safety handles. Just

because you can't see them, doesn't mean they aren't there. However, with all the forward movements made by campus safety, hopefully this trend will change.

Campus safety has stepped up to the plate and are making progress. For example, they were active at CCC's fall community fair on Oct 9 and are continuing their activism with a two hour seminar on Oct 24, 2013. The seminar's purpose is to build CCC's Building Evacuation Response Team and will be held in the McLoughlin Auditorium at noon.

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