

We're Over Here, You're Over There

**Coming together to develop a plan for
town-gown community success**

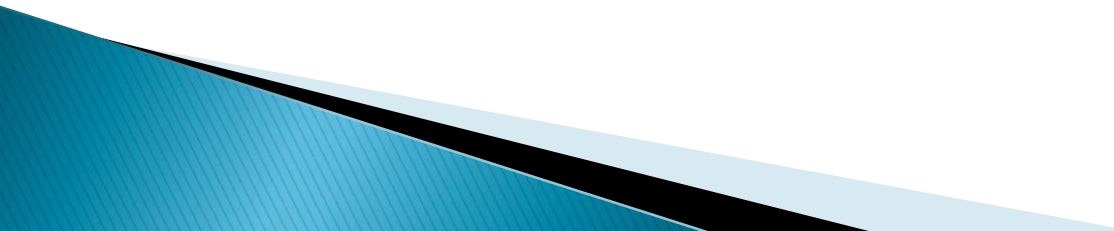
Office of
Student Standards



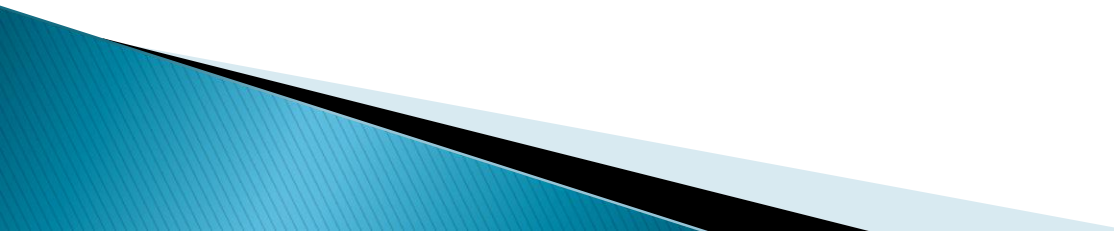
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

- ▶ Dr. Heather Webb, Director
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Today's Objectives

- ▶ Examine current relationships within your town–gown community & what barriers exist in forming productive relationships
 - ▶ Learn about various relationship–building initiatives, and how you can adapt them to your community
 - ▶ Consider promotion and sustainment of campus/community partnerships
 - ▶ See results from EIU's educational initiatives & enforcement
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Charleston, IL & EIU

- ▶ EIU has an enrollment of approx. 12,000
 - ▶ Charleston has approx. 21,000 residents
 - ▶ EIU is the main employer in the community
 - ▶ Rural area with more than 900 farms in Coles County
 - ▶ Agency involvement: EIU police, Charleston Police, Coles Co. Sherriff, ISP, Secretary of State
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Defining Where We Were & Examining Our Relationships



EIU student paralyzed in fall

Posted: Tuesday, December 28, 2004 12:00 am

An Eastern Illinois University student became paralyzed from the neck down after falling earlier this month from the upper level of a disc jockey booth at Stu's Surf Side.

Assistant Chief Roger Cunningham of the Charleston Police Department said the student was reportedly intoxicated when he climbed without authorization onto the disc jockey booth at 12:15 a.m. Dec. 17. He said the student fell over the booth's railing and apparently broke his neck.

Cunningham said the department had last heard from the student's father that he was in New York undergoing experimental surgery for his paralysis. The assistant chief declined to release the student's name, citing to medical privacy requirements.

Stu's Surf Side owner Paul Mejdrich declined to comment on the matter.

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Posted in [News](#) on *Tuesday, December 28, 2004 12:00 am*

Updated: 1:44 pm

Have you heard about the Homecoming Parade?

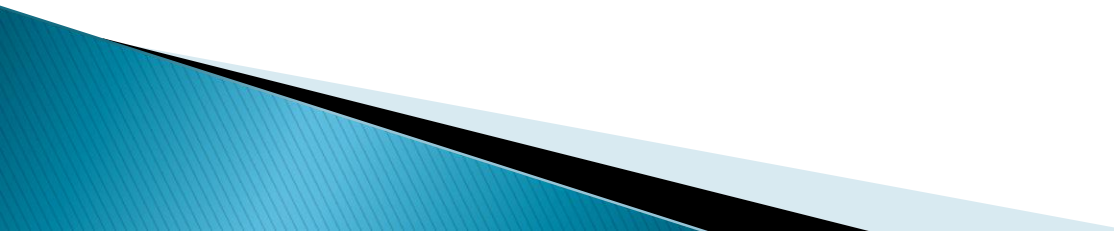


Discontent among the community

- Charleston residents expressed concerns over
 - Noise
 - Behaviors *on* their property (i.e. public urination, fights)
 - Unsightly neighboring properties
- Residents thought CPD and EIU were “doing nothing”



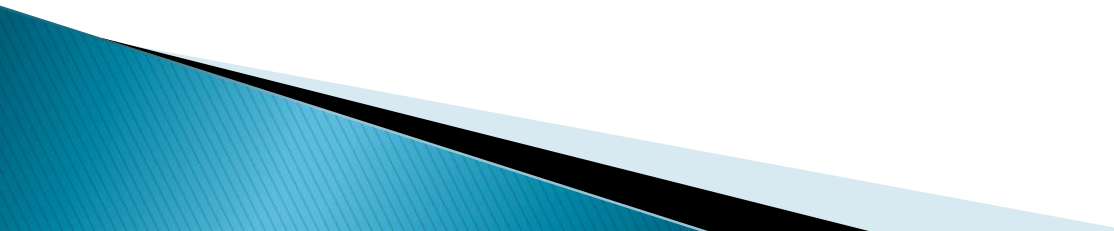
Need the info...

- ▶ City of Charleston did not provide police reports to Eastern unless it was “really bad”
 - ▶ Very little communication between judicial affairs and police agencies other than EIU PD
 - ▶ Everyone wanted EIU to “fix their bad students”
 - During this time EIU was preparing to new presidential leadership
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**What is your community like?
What are your barriers?**



Small Steps and Timing

- ▶ Plan now for Fall success... use Summer to your advantage!
 - ▶ Cultural changes don't happen overnight
 - ▶ Not every person was on board
 - ▶ Be willing to give a little to get a little
 - ▶ Nice gestures go a long way...
 - ▶ The EUDL Federal 3-year Grant!
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Strategy One– Listening

1. Listen Better

- Community meetings
 - EIU Vice–Presidents, Judicial Affairs, Charleston Police, Mayor, other officials
 - Felt like a firing squad at first...but the residents needed to voice their concerns!
- EIU & Charleston Police explained process
 - People don't like what they don't understand!
- CPD input solicited for programs and initiatives... from both leadership and patrol officers

Strategy Two– Know Each Other

Know Each Other

- Lunch dates between EIU and CPD
- Who is on your squad? Learn their names!
- Ride Alongs– Show and Tell Time!
- New officer introductions, learn our process
 - Officers feel appreciated when they know *something* happens and their work is meaningful
- Big time investment, but the payoff is HUGE

Strategy Three– Share Resources

Share Resources

- Information is a resource
 - CPD expressed to city leadership they enjoyed working with EIU Staff
- EIU & CPD unified patrol on weekends
- Partner in grant opportunities
 - Designate people on *both sides* to work on grants

Strategy Four– Good Neighbors

Good Neighbor Project

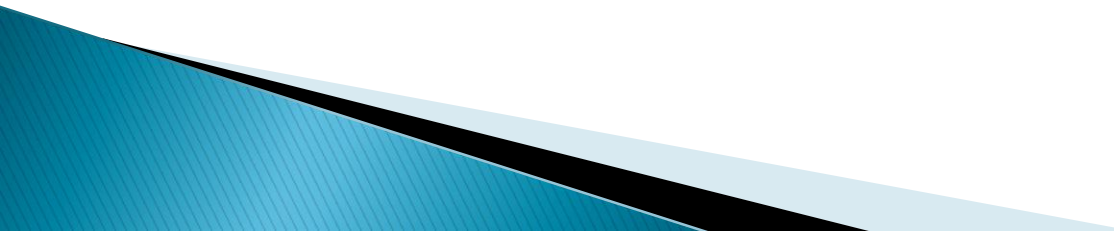
- City officials and EIU personnel placed in teams to meet & greet students
- Helped CPD officers be seen as a friendly resource
- Handed out resource packets (coupons and other items too!) to explain city ordinances
- *We called this Preventative Maintenance!*
- Cost... reach out to your friends in the community, grant money, etc.

Strategy Five– University Involvement

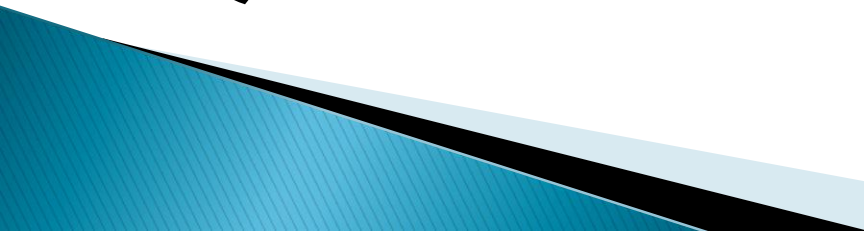
University Involvement

- CPD is invited to participate in many committees and coalitions on our campus
 - Alcohol Coalition
 - Tobacco Coalition
- Sanctioning...joint effort to help one another
- We had to STOP seeing ourselves separate agencies, and see ourselves as part of ONE community
- *This may be the most important strategy!*

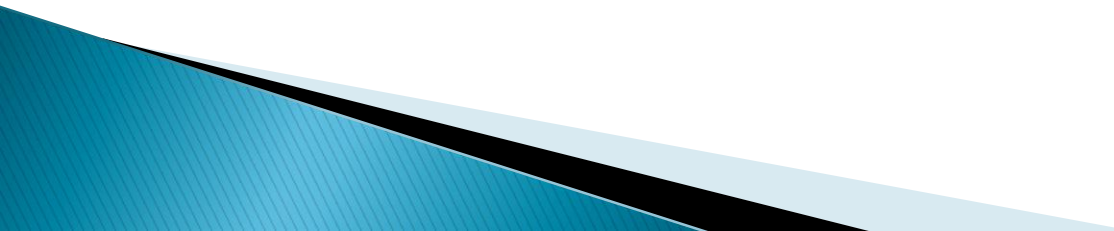
Net Results from the City Perspective

- Citizen complaints are non-existent
 - Alcohol Server Seller Compliance
 - Bar fights and serious injuries are at an all time low
 - Traffic accidents have been reduced by 12.7 %
 - Student are interacting in more self controlling settings
 - Disrespect for authorities has diminished
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Net Results from a University's Perspective

- ▶ Reporting to University of City Citations increased 274% in the first year
 - ▶ Over 30% decrease in city citations being issued to EIU students between Year 1 and 2
 - ▶ Over 60% decrease in Purchase/Acceptance of Alcohol by minor (to EIU students) between Year 1 and 2
 - ▶ Decrease in other behaviors as well (Public Urination, Noise/Trash Violations, etc)
 - ▶ Qualitative data
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Sustainability

- ▶ Relationship building/maintenance, no cost needed
 - ▶ Other people are covering costs of certain initiatives (alcohol-free tailgate, enforcement details)
 - ▶ Realize that the population changes every year so maintenance is important
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Thanks!

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