

2023 October Summary of Campus Communications

From: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 3:43 PM

To: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Subject: October 15 Statement Regarding Assault

Dear Alfred State College Community,

Early this morning, a student was assaulted and seriously injured while walking back onto our Alfred campus. A witness reported the incident resulting in University Police Officers responding within seconds to render aid and take the four suspects responsible, all non-students, into custody. The suspects, who face felony charges, were arraigned before a judge and remanded to the Allegany County Jail in lieu of bail. The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are pending.

Members of the college's administration are actively in contact with the family as we show support and solidarity for a member of our community. We recognize that any situation of violence is unsettling in our small campus community and village. Staff at Health and Wellness Services can provide support if you feel your own well-being is impacted. You can contact them at 607-687-4200 or by going to T.A. Parish Hall during open hours.

We are grateful to the witness for immediately reporting the incident and to University Police Officers for standing at the ready, both last night and as a normal service 24/7. You can partner in efforts to keep yourself and the Alfred community safe by following these steps:

- Have a phone ready, close at hand, to call police at 911 if confronted by aggression.
- Be vigilant watching for unknown persons following you onto campus.
- Travel in groups of two or more using the buddy system.
- Our residence halls are locked 24/7. Upon entering residence halls, make sure doors lock behind you and are never accidentally left ajar.
- Once in your room, make sure your door is locked.
- Report any suspicious persons or circumstances to University Police immediately – 911 (emergencies) or 607-587-3999 (general #)
- While Alfred is a small tight-knit community, do not be complacent about your safety—here, or anywhere.

Our student did not deserve to be assaulted, and no form of violence is ever an acceptable response to anything for any reason. The perpetrators of this assault, like anyone who commits violence, will be held accountable in the criminal justice system.

Collectively, we stand in support of our student, who has been hospitalized and is receiving medical treatment, and support for their family. Out of respect for the family and to cooperate with the ongoing investigation, we are unable to share more information at this time, but we

appreciate your prayers to our student, family members, and others who have been impacted by this terrible incident.

Sincerely,
Steven Mauro, Ph.D.
Alfred State College President

From: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 8:03 PM

To: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Subject: Stay Safe This Weekend and Every Day

Dear Students,

As we begin the weekend, I wanted to echo [President Mauro's sentiment](#) earlier this week that violence is **never** an appropriate response to anything for any reason. When you see something, you should **report** it. Please be reminded of the many safety resources available to you:

- A fully sworn police department on duty 24/7/365 who can be reached at 607-587-3999
- Approximately [15 emergency blue light phones](#) to contact police headquarters
- Police are available to *escort* any student if they feel they are in an unsafe environment
- An anonymous web-based tip line at www.alfredstate.edu/silent-witness to provide a mechanism for individuals to report unsafe activity
- Locked residence halls 24/7 so only the residents from that building can enter
- A security camera system across multiple buildings and several outdoor locations
- Website with safety tips available to all members of our community at www.alfredstate.edu/safety-tips
- Every fall and spring semester, we offer [self-defense classes](#) for anyone interested and also offer the [RAD course](#) free of charge – contact UPD for more information

When we become aware of situations by report or video, not only will our police investigate but we will also use internal [student conduct](#) processes to ensure people who participate in violent or disorderly behavior are held accountable.

While this list above is extensive, the most important resource is you. As students, you will ultimately play a large role in shaping what the climate is like and how it feels on campus. Let's make it a positive one.

Sincerely,

Greg Sammons
VP of Student and Employee Affairs

From: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2023 4:06 PM

To: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Subject: Fundraiser for our Assault Victim's Family

Dear Campus Community,

Last Sunday morning, we were all shocked and saddened to learn of the four men with no known Alfred ties who were arrested for savagely assaulting one of our students. [This short video by President Mauro](#) provides an update regarding this senseless crime as we all rally in support, work together against any future violence, and care for one another. The family of the assailed student will provide updates on his condition on their fundraising GoFundMe page.

From: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 1:59 PM

To: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Subject: Student Altercation Oct. 24

Yesterday afternoon 10/24, students were reportedly involved in an incident that started on the highways between the Wellsville and Alfred campuses and culminated in an aggressive confrontation on the campus roadway that involved an edged weapon. The police quickly responded and based on the investigation, made an arrest for both assault and criminal mischief.

While the altercation thankfully didn't result in serious injury, we applied our interim suspension policy as described in our [Student Code of Conduct](#). The investigation will continue, and the matter will advance in both the criminal justice system and student conduct process to determine individual accountability for those involved.

As President Mauro has clearly and unequivocally stated, violence is never an appropriate response. You can be a partner in campus safety by adhering to the following:

- Alert us. If you see something, summon the police to allow the fastest response – 911 (emergencies) or 607-587-3999 (time-sensitive UPD direct line)
- Be accountable for your own actions; self-assess whether you are more interested in recording and uploading crudely or inaccurately captioned videos of incidents for likes/reactions, than being a responsible member of the community.
- Review the website with safety tips available to all members of our community at www.alfredstate.edu/safety-tips

Our University Police will be surging extra coverage over the next weeks to be both highly visible and available to students who feel more comfortable by the added levels of police. Our sense of community relies upon all of us collectively choosing to abide by a shared set of [Principles of Community](#).

Violent behavior has NO place in our community, and we will continue to act swiftly to prevent, respond to, and use our internal student conduct and legal system to the fullest extent possible to remove anyone exhibiting violent behavior from our campus.

Dr. Gregory Sammons

Vice President for Student and Employee Affairs



Student Leadership Center
10 Upper College Drive
Alfred, NY 14802
(607) 587-3911

From: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Date: Friday, October 27, 2023 at 1:08 PM

To: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>

Subject: Halloween Fun and Safety

Dear Students,

This month has been particularly challenging for our community and Halloween offers many opportunities, including [College-sponsored events](#), for us to focus on tradition and celebration. However, it remains important to be mindful of *everyone's* safety and to always demonstrate Pioneer Pride through our actions.

Each year, there is reporting in the national media on young adults who make poor choices with offensive costume choices or party themes which are then memorialized on social media. In some cases, these poor choices lead to changed or damaged futures. Do not encourage, promote, or participate in activities that are insensitive or contrary to your values, that could injure your good standing in the community, or that violate the College's [Principles of Community](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Violence prevention has been and will continue to be a focus of the College during this and every season. One aspect of these efforts is to appropriately confront the promotion, trivialization, and glorification of violence on social media. Before posting, sharing, or commenting on this type of content, ask yourself whether your engagement is *anti*-violent. If you cannot readily identify the value in your contribution, please consider modifying or simply not posting the questionable material.

Sadly, it has also been observed that some members of our community have seemingly prioritized making content over the health and well-being of others. In one recent, widely shared video on Instagram, numerous individuals could be seen recording a physical altercation *yet there were no calls made to emergency services* at the time of occurrence. Everyone *should* get their phones out, if safe to do so when witnessing a public safety concern. However, the *first* action should always be to call for assistance (typically, 911).

Most social media hosts observe *community guidelines* that overlap with the Alfred State's own [Principles of Community](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#). You are invited to join in reporting posts or accounts that you believe violate a platform's policies. While most services offer a readily accessible option for reporting concerning social media content, you can also reference [this webpage](#) if you don't know how to initiate this process.

Let's have a happy Halloween weekend and stay safe!

Casey Gross
Associate Dean for Judicial Affairs



Student Leadership Center
10 Upper College Drive
Alfred, NY 14802
(607) 587-4065

From: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM
To: Special Announcement <SpecialAnnouncement@alfredstate.edu>
Subject: Flood of support for Derek Correa

Dear Campus Community,

I'm so proud of our Pioneer spirit. Students, faculty, and staff have rallied in support of Derek Correa and his family. I also want to recognize the tremendous response from our staff who are charged with safety, security, health, and wellness. From the seconds following the assault when officers arrived to help Derek and capture suspects... to mental health counseling that is available as students may face anxiety from such an unexpected incident in our community... the Pioneer Family is even more united as we will not tolerate violence.

We have added a [web page in support of Derek Correa's family](#). This resource has connections to family updates through their GoFundMe page, lists the many support activities, and summarizes the incident and our strong response so that all information is gathered in one place to keep communication flowing.

I know each of you shares my commitment to maintaining safety as our highest priority. The webpage also provides important and factually accurate information to guide our ongoing dialogue around community safety. I am hopeful by centralizing information I can also alleviate anxiousness that can occur from social media commentary and rumors. I hope this is useful for you in your efforts to engage others in meaningful dialogue.

There are so many ways to show our support for Derek. I know my family will be enjoying takeout spaghetti dinners from the Nov. 16 Culinary Arts fundraising dinner. I'm impressed that the brand-new Trap Shooting Team is hosting an exhibition that also raises funds. I've been touched by all Pioneers bowing their heads at athletic events for a moment of prayer and I'm truly moved by the initiative of Derek's fellow CNC manufacturing students who are currently making a candelabra for Derek's mom.

Thanks again to the campus community and all our neighbors in the Southern Tier who will not tolerate violence. Working together we make our village stronger. You should be proud of all that is being done to show support for Derek.

Sincerely,
Steven Mauro, Ph.D.
Alfred State College President