A word about campus security concerns

Members of the UCR Community,

A few high-profile robberies near our campus this week have raised concern among students, faculty, staff, and community members. I am writing to assure you all that the university leadership is taking these occurrences very seriously and is working collaboratively with the Riverside police and community members to resolve the problem. It is an uncommon occurrence for there to be so many robberies in such a short period of time, but we are taking steps to address the issue.

Our campus police and the City of Riverside Police Department are increasing patrols, and collaborating to vigorously pursue those responsible. The speedy arrest of three suspects earlier this week shows promising progress in resolving the problem. In addition, authorities now have descriptions for the suspects in the most recent daylight robbery.

The campus is devoting itself to increasing campus safety and securing the surrounding areas, and we ask for the community to help by remaining vigilant.

Although UCR is, in general, a safe place to work and study, we live in a world where crime happens. If you see something suspicious, call 911. Watch out for your friends, colleagues, and fellow citizens, and do not hesitate to contact authorities if necessary.

In addition to police protection, the campus offers many additional resources to help keep our community members safe.
• The Women’s Resource Center provides a free Campus Safety Escort Service. Their webpage details days and hours of service. Call the Campus Safety Escort at 827-3772 or use the red direct-line phones installed in most campus buildings. You can also request an escort in person at the Rivera Library.
• When the Service is not in operation, contact the University Police Department for an escort at 827-5222.
• UCR Transportation & Parking Services has installed emergency call boxes in every parking lot, and on paths and walkways throughout campus. Emergency call boxes connect directly to the UC Police Department. http://parking.ucr.edu/operations/callbox.html

Most of all, take safety seriously - crime can happen to you. Pay attention to your surroundings on-campus or off-campus. Never leave small electronic devices and laptops unattended or in plain view. Criminals have been known to target victims distracted by their cell phones or headphones.

If you feel threatened, cross the street or enter a store or place of business even if you have just left it.

One final comment: The victims in these cases understood that their lives were far more valuable than any piece of property. Getting a good description of the suspects, their license plates, and calling the police as soon as possible is vitally important and increases the likelihood of apprehending the suspects.

Jane Close Conoley
Interim Chancellor

The UCPD website also contains many helpful safety tips. Here is a sample:

**Home Safety:**

• Lock your door, even when you intend to return home shortly or even if you are just going down the hall. It takes a thief 10 seconds or less to enter an open room and steal your property.
• Lock or secure doors and windows when you are alone or asleep.
• Keep emergency numbers by your phone.
• Do not leave messages on your door indicating that you are away and when you will return.
• Do not let strangers enter your dormitory or premises.
• Do not prop open outer doors.
• If someone asks to use your phone for an emergency call, offer to telephone for them instead of allowing them access.
• Do not put your address on your key ring.
• Know your neighbors.
• Do not leave keys in hiding places. Thieves will find them. Carry your keys or make sure that anyone who truly needs them has their own copy.
• Call 911 to report suspicious persons or activity in or around your neighborhood.
• Open a savings or checking account instead of keeping money in your room.
• Keep ATM cards in a safe place and keep your PIN number secret. When possible, only use ATMs during the day.
• Instead of carrying large sums of cash, use a charge card. Some charge cards insure property purchased with those cards against loss, theft or damage.
• If you find yourself in immediate danger, call 911; try to stay calm and get away at the first opportunity.

**Protect Yourself When Walking**

• Avoid walking alone at night unless absolutely necessary.
• Keep to well-lit commonly traveled routes.
• Avoid shortcuts and dark, isolated areas.
• Walk purposefully; know where you are going; project a no-nonsense image.
• Avoid potentially dangerous situations.
• If you feel threatened, cross the street, locate an emergency phone, or enter a store or place of business even if you have just left it.
• Have your door keys ready, in your pockets, not buried in a purse.

Protect Your Automobile, Bicycle or Moped

• Always lock your car. (One in five stolen cars was left with keys in the ignition.)
• Lock bikes to immovable objects or bike racks with hardened alloy locks and chains or U-shaped lock
• Do not leave tempting valuables or property visible inside the car. Lock these items in the trunk.
• Lock mopeds as you would bikes.

Protecting yourself

• Look into your car before getting in. Lock doors and roll up windows once inside for protection.
• Never pick up hitchhikers.
• Carry change for emergency calls. 911 is a free call.
• Drive to a police or fire station or open business if you feel you are being followed.
• Do not stop to help occupants of stopped or disabled vehicles. Continue driving to the nearest phone and call assistance for them.
• If your car breaks down, raise the hood, then lock yourself inside. If someone stops and offers you help, remain in your car and ask them to phone for help. Do not worry about seeming rude.