March 26, 2012

Campus life is not isolated from crimes occurring in the surrounding communities. Crimes do occur on campuses. However, the crime statistics show that the San Diego Community College District is a safe learning environment for our students, faculty, staff and visitors.

To keep your personal property safe, you must maintain an awareness of your surroundings and use common sense. Follow these tips to help reduce your chances of being a victim.

- Never leave valuables in plain view, even when the car is locked. Put them out of sight in the trunk.
- Never leave valuables unattended. Tossing a backpack on a table while getting lunch or leaving it on a bench may lead to theft of the backpack or something inside it.
- Secure lockers at all times. Lockers can be broken into, especially if they are not properly closed. Make sure your locker is shut tightly at the top, middle, and bottom. Don’t share your combination with anyone. Lockers are vulnerable to theft because they are often left unlocked.
- Identifying Your Property
  - Etch your driver's license number on any valuables that might be stolen.
  - Photograph valuables that cannot be etched.
  - Keep a detailed, up-to-date record of your valuables. Include type, model, serial number, proof of purchase and fair market value.

Stolen items may seem gone for good, but sometimes they can be recovered. It all depends on what steps are taken before the theft. Keep a record of all of the valuables you bring to campus. This includes each item's color, make, model, serial number, and any other identifying information. It is important to remember that everyone can play a role in preventing theft of personal property by making sure that personal property is carefully watched or secured at all times.

The San Diego Community College District Police Department's mission is to maintain peace and order and a safe learning environment throughout our District. There are Emergency Call-Boxes in many classrooms, elevators and parking lots that provide a direct link to the San Diego Community College District Police Department.

If you have information about crimes which have occurred, or may occur on or near campus, you may report it by calling College Police at (619) 388-6405, the San Diego Police at (619) 531-2000 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-TIPS. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Charles Hogquist
Chief of Police