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PRESS RELEASE

Rutgers Hosted Campus Conflict Training for University Officials Across U.S.
National leaders converged to address increasing conflicts at U.S. universities and colleges

New Brunswick, N.J. – Dec. 5 – Rutgers University’s Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience hosted two days of training on Dec. 2-3 for nearly 100 participants, focusing on strategies to manage conflict and division on college campuses.

Conducted in partnership with the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) and the Global Consortium of Law Enforcement Training Executives (GCLETE), the program, “Navigating Through Campus Conflict (NTCC): National Leadership Training to Prevent Hate Crime, Violence & Intimidation,” aims to unite students, faculty, administrators, police, security personnel and campus community members in a standardized approach to campus safety and conflict resolution.

Nearly 100 campus police and security professionals, university administrators, higher-education faith leaders, federal law enforcement officials and state and local police participated in the pilot training.

The program’s overarching goal was to create a collaborative framework that ensures higher education institutions are safe, inclusive spaces for instruction, learning, debate and the free exchange of ideas, officials said.

“The training equips campus administrators and security professionals with the skills to prevent, respond to and manage hate crimes and campus conflict,” said [Paul Goldenberg](#), chief adviser for policy and international policing at the Rutgers Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience.



Paul Cell, L. Angela Webb, and Paul Goldenberg sign a memorandum agreement with intent to further develop the Navigating Through Campus Conflict program.

The program launched with the signing of a memorandum between IACLEA and Miller Center officials. The agreement formalizes plans to further develop the training into a standardized program for campus safety and administration officials throughout the United States and Canada.

Representing IACLEA were Paul Cell, executive director of IACLEA and former chief of police at Montclair State University, and L. Angela Webb, IACLEA president and associate vice president for campus safety at Rhodes College. Goldenberg, the director of the program, performed the honors for the Miller Center.



Salvador Mena, Rutgers senior vice chancellor for the student experience, addressed participants with opening remarks.

“This groundbreaking training represents a proactive and unified response to the alarming rise in hate crimes targeting our academic communities,” said Cell. “The initiative brings together leaders to empower campuses with the tools to promote safety and resilience.”

“Our campuses are places of free expression, but they must also be sanctuaries of safety and inclusion,” he continued. “This program will set the standard for how academic institutions can address these complex challenges.”

The week’s program featured 10 modules. Topics included identifying and recognizing bias incidents, balancing safety and free speech and understanding the relationship among sworn campus law enforcement, nonsworn public safety officials and college civilian administration.

Organizers of the training said it is the most comprehensive and inclusive program to date. Feedback from the event will be used to refine the curriculum for implementation nationwide.



Training attendees hear from experts in de-escalation, trauma-informed response and managing civil unrest.



Training participants learn about on-campus bias/hate activities and the effects on the community.

Rutgers University General Counsel John Farmer said, “Rutgers is pleased to step to the forefront to take on these critical challenges. As both a renowned university and the home for the leading academic center for policing, we consider it our duty to create a model for police, security and administrators to create a secure environment that honors the principles of open expression that universities represent.”

“With geopolitical tensions impacting communities around the globe, it is more important than ever to cultivate inclusive and safe environments on our college campuses,” said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. “Training focused on the prevention of hate crimes, violence and intimidation empowers faculty, staff and campus leaders with the knowledge and tools to confront these challenges effectively. By fostering inclusivity and mutual respect, we can strengthen campus communities where everyone feels valued, protected and supported.”

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About the Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience:

The mission of the Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience is to assist vulnerable communities, particularly communities of faith, to enhance their safety and their standing in society by improving their relationships with law enforcement, with other government agencies, and with other vulnerable communities.