

News Release

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NASPA™

Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

Incidents of violence on college campuses have not declined

College in the Crosshairs addresses how college administrators on campuses of any size can take a proactive and community-wide approach

WASHINGTON, D.C. —NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education releases a new book titled “College in the Crosshairs” edited by Brandi Hephner LaBanc and Brian O. Hemphill. Gun violence – whether rampage shootings, homicides or suicides – is a potential reality all campuses have to face. This book provides leaders in higher education – and particularly those in student affairs – with data about past incidents, an analysis of trends, and background on the national debate about gun policies and how they impact colleges.

“This is a responsibility in which administrators, particularly those in student affairs, are poised to provide leadership to maintain campus safety,” says NASPA President Kevin Kruger. “This book also builds on the idea that, by sharing effective practices and resources, we are stronger together.”

“College in the Crosshairs” raises issues about student psychological development, mental health and the prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse on campus, to better inform discussion about allowing guns on campus and concealed carry. In the years after the tragedy at Virginia Tech, public concern about campus shootings and other deadly violence has increase. The debate has been both intense and deeply divided, with some advocates calling for stricter gun regulations while others are pushing to allow individuals to carry firearms on campus. The authors also address concealed carry legislation and its impact on campus policies by state, examining the concerns of administrators as they discharge their duty of care to students and comply with legal and regulatory frameworks.

The book concludes by outlining best practices, and providing guidance on developing an emergency plan, practicing and testing systems, and creating a robust communications strategy. Individual chapters focus on how small colleges with limited resources can develop effective plans into by partnering with local agencies; as well as on the steps that community colleges – who generally lack resident advisors and residential staff, and whose students are far more dispersed – can take to diminish risk and respond promptly and professionally to a crisis.

This is an essential guide for all higher education leaders concerned about preventing violence on our campuses, and a call to action. It is available for purchase on the [NASPA website](http://www.naspa.org) or by calling (202) 265-7500 and retails for \$39.95.

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NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.