

News Release

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NASPA[™]

Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

Student affairs associations issue statement on guns

Six associations emphasize need for safety on college and university campuses

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, along with five other student affairs associations, issued a joint statement opposing guns on college and university campuses.

Representing more than 50,000 student affairs administrators and educators on more than 2,000 college campuses, the groups stand united in opposition to any legislation that allows or expands the legal possession of firearms on campuses. The only exceptions are firearms used by trained law enforcement officers or through institutionally endorsed educational programs.

Below is the full statement:

During the closing days of the spring 2014 semester, active shooters terrorized the University of California, Santa Barbara and Seattle Pacific University. Once again, our students, faculty and staff were put in harms way through these senseless acts of gun violence. In all, these two incidents left 8 dead and 15 wounded. Countless others will be affected in the future by the emotional trauma of these two senseless acts of violence.

As we prepare to welcome millions of college students to campus for the start of another academic year – it is timely to re-engage the debate around allowing guns and other weapons on campus.

We do not oppose gun ownership. However, in an increasing number of states, bills have been introduced or passed that allow, or expand eligibility for, individuals to possess guns on college campuses. We firmly oppose such laws.

Increasing the number of firearms in the hands of students, faculty, staff, and visitors presents an increased risk to our communities. Firearms on campus should be strictly limited to recruited, trained, and supervised police officers (federal, state, local or university police) or participants in institutionally endorsed educational programs for which use and carry of a firearm is a necessary requirement.

It is time for college and university faculty, staff and students to take a stand against guns on campus and to urge our students to do the same. The vast majority of faculty (94%) and students (78%) already oppose guns on campus. We believe that more guns will simply catalyze more violence. College campuses have been one of the safest communities in our country. Let's keep it that way.

With a single voice, and representing over 50,000 student affairs administrators and educators on over 2,000 college campuses, we stand united in our opposition to any legislation that allows or expands the legal possession of firearms other than by trained law enforcement officers or through institutionally endorsed educational programs.

NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

ACPA – College Student Educators International

AFA – Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors

ACUHO-I Association of College & University Housing Officers – International

ASCA - Association for Student Conduct Administration

NACE – National Association of Colleges and Employers

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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 13,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.