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UVA HR

Employee Spotlight

University Police Department

My name is Cody Oliver, I'm a captain here at the UVA Police Department, and I currently oversee our field operations Bureau.

I've been part of the LEC tutoring program, really since D.C Hall coordinated it being brought to this area at Greer Elementary School. And you know, we dedicate time each and every week to this endeavor, but it kind of becomes going through the motions, right, as with any other job responsibility, you know, you carve out an hour every week and you show up when you're supposed to, and you have these interactions.

And you know, not this not this year but the previous year, I had the opportunity to to tutor uh a young individual who ultimately had some trouble focusing from time to time. And when I showed up into tutoring, just one Wednesday, a normal day, walking into the library, I look around and I don't see my student there. Shortly thereafter, one of the administrators with the school system come to me and then related an incident that happened earlier in the day that was going to preclude this student from being able to participate within the tutoring program. So the administrator went on to say that this young person was in his office, visibly upset and crying, and asked if I would help. And so I found out that that my my student wasn't crying because of the incident that had happened earlier in the day; wasn't crying because he missed recess; wasn't crying because he wasn't able to to do something else with his friends or his peers. But he was crying because he was unable to spend 45 minutes with me, tutoring in that library at Greer Elementary School.

And so we had the opportunity shortly after that to bring the guidance counselor in and we really spent that 45 minutes doing nothing more than talking about what had happened earlier in that day; talking about big problems and little problems, and talking about how to deal with the feelings that arise in the normal course of our everyday life.

And that's really what made the light bulb go off for me, and really made me understand what a profound impact that we're having in these young people's lives, just by showing up every day in uniform.

You know, given my role, I spend a lot of time behind a desk, I spend a lot of time in kind of strategic oversight and day-to-day management, but there's nothing more that I enjoy than getting away from that computer screen, getting out of you know the office

bubble and being able to spend time with really the most valuable asset that we have in our community, and that's our young people.

UVA HR

UPD Tutoring Program

For more information, please email police@virginia.edu. Attention Sue Dootson.