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UVA HR

Employee Spotlight

University Police Department

I'm Tim Longo. I am the Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police for the University of Virginia. You know this is a great opportunity for the University Police Department, but really for the larger university community to really do what um. I think President Ryan and our Board envisions, with respect to what's great and good uh as a university and community partner with the city of Charlottesville and the county of Albemarle. One way we thought we could do that, and really advance this notion of being part of a broad community, was to reach one of our greatest resources in the community, and that's our kids. Um, young people in our school divisions. And Deputy Chief Hall had heard of a great program [unintelligible] that involves police officers going to schools and being tutors. But, more importantly, building relationships with young people who oftentimes don't see police in the best light.

So, it was an opportunity for us to go inside of school, sit down with the kids, um give something, add something to their life. Also, give them the opportunity to add something to ours. Uh, and to help advance the uh the relationships that are so important for the success of the University community.

So, this is really also uh an opportunity to grow this program. It's been wildly successful. It's been successful in helping uh improve the scores of our students in this particular elementary school. But it's also been successful in building the relationships that we strive to build every day in our community with respect to the police department and our young people. We also see this as an opportunity to engage other members of the university community whether it be in our Medical Center or the academic side of the University, even our student body. Also, our police partners in the city and the county who right now we're at one elementary school in Albemarle County. We'd love to be in more and perhaps um expand the program into our middle schools. Not just in the county, but in the city as well. And to have our law enforcement partners in the city and county be part of that, I think, would be um not only important to the students in those schools and to those individual officers, but important to the community to see their police in a very different way. I mean, we are members of this community. A lot of us live here. Um, for some of us, our children and our grandchildren attend these very same schools. And, to be able to go into the school um as a member of the community uh who is uh not only a public servant, but somebody who lives here and enjoys the many things that these communities have to offer.

This is a two-way street. I don't want this message to get lost in the success of test scores. We've built relationships here. We struggled for a lot of years in this business of building those relationships through largely circumstances outside of the control of these individual police officers. And we built good relationships, and we built relationships with people who are still learning in life and thinking about what life looks like in front of them. And to know that police officers are people who have hearts um and are willing to give um and are willing to have relationships like this, I think will go a long way. Not just for the young people whose lives we touched, with the hearts that have been touched uh, and the lives of police officers who are part of this program as well.

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UPD Tutoring Program

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