



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director
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Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio University Scripps College of Communication Announce *Communicating for a Safer Ohio* Initiative

(COLUMBUS) - The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is tapping the social media generation in a partnership, titled *Communicating for a Safer Ohio*, with Ohio University's nationally-recognized Scripps College of Communication, in an effort aimed at harnessing college students' innovative communication ideas to contribute to a safer Ohio.

"While employing interns is not new to ODPS and other state agencies, this will mark the first time students will help develop strategy, methods, and implementation to reduce tragedy and life-degrading events that impact their generation the most," said ODPS Director John Born. "This is both an exciting opportunity for the Department and the University, and I'm looking forward to the creative work that these highly-talented students will develop."

ODPS and the Scripps College of Communication have agreed to annually employ and rotate nine interns, through a highly selective process. Beginning this summer semester, ODPS will be employing a social media intern, a web video producer intern and a copy writer/editor intern. While the interns will be specializing in those three specific areas this semester, those areas may change during subsequent semesters, allowing for maximum experience and opportunities within ODPS.

"It is an honor and a privilege for Ohio University to partner with the Ohio Department of Public Safety with this very exciting project," said Ohio University President Roderick J. McDavis. "Our students are among the finest communication students in the state, and this prestigious internship program will allow them to improve public safety through the use of new media, expanding the department's reach, especially among the younger population."

The Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University consists of five different schools, each offering a variety of majors and programs for students who want to pursue a communication-related career. Schools within the College are the School of Communication Studies, the J. Warren McClure School of Information and Telecommunication Systems, the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, the School of Media Arts and Studies, and the School of Visual Communication. The WOUB Center for Public Media is also a part of the Scripps College of Communication.

The directors of each of the schools within the Scripps College of Communication visited ODPS today, along with other administrators. They met with the ODPS Senior Staff and Communication staff and also toured the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

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