

# BENNINGTON COLLEGE

**TO:** Faculty, Staff, and Students

**FR:** Chip Coletta, Interim Director of Campus Safety

As many of you know, I recently joined Bennington College as the Interim Director of Campus Safety. Prior to joining Bennington, I oversaw public safety at Tufts University and Suffolk University. My New England connections run even deeper. I studied at Northeastern University, received my law degree from New England Law-Boston, and spent 28 years with the Massachusetts State Police.

I could not be happier about joining the Bennington Community.

Over the last few weeks, I have heard from some of you about concerns related to security on campus because of staffing needs.

As someone who has devoted over 10 years of my career to public safety on college campuses, let me say unequivocally that safety is our number one priority.

My job is to make sure we are safe - and that means that safety and security are part of the fabric of our institution.

I am fully aware of some of the challenges we have faced because of staffing shortages, which impact our security operation as well. We are working very hard to hire additional security personnel - along with other positions across the College. In addition to seeking to hire additional staff, we have created a task force to look at other options related to how we organize the Campus Safety division. We expect to share recommendations in this area within the next few weeks.

If you have any questions related to campus safety - or any concerns - please bring them to my attention by emailing me at [chipcoletta@bennington.edu](mailto:chipcoletta@bennington.edu).

Safety is - and will always remain - our number one priority.

Thank you.

Chip Coletta

*Interim Director of Campus Safety*