

December 12, 2014

Dear AASHE STARS Evaluators:

In 1989, the First World Conference on Accident and Injury Prevention was held in Stockholm, Sweden in which five hundred delegates from 50 countries attended. Out of this conference grew a worldwide movement to prevent unintentional injury and death to make communities safer and led to the foundation for Safe Communities America within the National Safety Council.

The Safe Communities America accreditation is given by the National Safety Council and is an elite approval for communities that prioritize safety where people live, work, and play. In July of this year, Western Kentucky University became the 25<sup>th</sup> Safe Community in America and joined three other Campus Communities with this designation.

The Safe Communities Designation is both a new designation, as well as a unique program for the university. This program has brought many departments and units together on a common goal of keeping the campus community safe through a coalition. This coalition is dedicated to delivering, monitoring, and assessing local solutions for local concern.

WKU's Safe Communities Program features eight injury prevention programs in which we have chosen to focus. These categories include: Motor Vehicles and Pedestrians; Fall Prevention; Drug Overdose Poisoning; On and Off-the-Job Workplace Safety; Violence and Suicide Prevention; Emergency Preparedness; Health, Fitness, and Wellness; and Residential Life Safety. In addition to the initial application, WKU completes two annual reports for the National Safety Council based on our coalition feedback and progress. The reports focus on the top 3 causes of injuries in our campus community and how our prevention priorities align with the identified injuries. After five years, WKU will seek re-designation as a safe community.

The Safe Communities community coalition approach has been shown to be effective in saving lives. WKU is a leading University in this approach. For more information please visit <http://www.wku.edu/safecommunities/> and <http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/safe-communities-america-network.aspx>.

Sincerely,



David Oliver  
Director, Environmental Health and Safety