



RCCC to strengthen security measures

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CONCORD - Rowan-Cabarrus Community College is strengthening security measures at each of its campuses to thwart instances of an active gunman.

The college's security plan was among the topics discussed during its Tuesday budget hearing with the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.

"We were all shaken last year by the tragic events in Blacksburg, Va," said Tim Foley, RCCC's academic vice president. "We are taking steps, like institutions everywhere, to try to do all we can do to ward off similar security breeches and tragedies on our campus."

The shooting at Virginia Tech University last year left 33 dead and several others injured. Since then, colleges and universities across the country have re-evaluated security measures beyond building evacuations and severe weather plans.

RCCC plans to add an intercom or public address system to campuses to notify students in classrooms, commons areas and parking lots of impending danger.

Efforts to replace the locksets on classroom doors, so they can be locked from the inside, are also in the works. Doors currently can be locked only from the outside with a key.

RCCC anticipates those improvements to cost about \$300,000 at its Cabarrus and Rowan facilities.

RCCC requested \$170,000 from Cabarrus commissioners Tuesday for its Cabarrus operations, including the South Campus, Cabarrus Business & Technology Center and Cloverleaf Plaza centers.

Also during the budget hearing, RCCC requested fewer current expenses, since cost estimates given last year for the 3000 Building and Cloverleaf Cosmetology expansion were larger than what was needed.

The college also requested \$100,000 more for its plant and equipment budget to account for an increase of repairs that come with aging facilities.

The total budget requested was 2 million, an 8.8 percent increase from the previous year.

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