

# Robbery suspects arrested on campus

Students, staff kept in classrooms; AlertU notification successful

As presidents of Napa Valley College and of the Napa Valley College Board of Trustees, we would like to jointly thank everyone who contributed to the safe resolution of Monday's critical incident on campus.

Our sincere thanks go to Napa Police Department, Napa Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, and the Napa Valley College Police Department. Their speedy coalition of a consolidated command post that made excellent decisions ensured the safety of everyone on campus and brought into custody two robbery suspects. These entities have a history of effective working relationships, and their crisis response demonstrated how important that is to the safety of our community. To the Fire Department, thank you for taking such good care of children evacuated from the Child Development Center, to bus drivers for their safe transport, and to their Highway Patrol escorts.

We would also like to thank the Napa Valley Register and KVON for helping to get the word out to students and the community regarding the ongoing status of events and campus closure. The generous words of support from bloggers on the Register website were also greatly appreciated.

We are gratified by the college's decisions over recent years to install emergency phones on campus with Measure N funds, arm the campus police, significantly enhance police computer and radio equipment, conduct disaster training sessions, and employ the AlertU system to send out emergency messages to student and staff cell phones. Additional measures to further strengthen campus safety are currently under review.

And finally, we extend our personal thanks to students, faculty, and staff on campus yesterday. Your calm, cooperative response while detained in classrooms and offices on a hot afternoon as well as your patience during the necessarily slow exodus from campus earned our sincere gratitude.

Once again, we would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in yesterday's events for your professionalism and sensitivity. We are proud of our community and grateful that the incident on the Napa Valley College campus was brought to a safe conclusion.

Dr. Chris McCarthy  
President, NVC

JoAnn Busenbark  
President, NVC Board  
of Trustees

Napa Police Department  
Press Release Information  
Tuesday, April 21, 2009  
**Two arrests made in robbery investigation**

The Napa Police Department has made two arrests in connection with the armed robbery which occurred in Napa shortly before 1 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2009. The robbery occurred outside the WestAmerica Bank, 1221 W. Imola Avenue located in the River Park Shopping Center while the victim was preparing to enter the bank to make a deposit. The victim was robbed at gunpoint of an undisclosed amount of money by a suspect described as a black male adult wearing a red t-shirt and black shorts. During the robbery the suspect struck the victim several times about the head with the gun. The victim received minor injuries. Witnesses reported seeing the suspect leave the area in a white Lexus SUV driven by an accomplice described as a black male adult. The Lexus was observed entering the Napa Valley College campus. Witnesses reported seeing the vehicle parked in the campus parking lot. One of the suspects was observed exiting the vehicle and walking westbound towards the campus. The Lexus remained parked

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Officers inspected all vehicles leaving campus during the crisis, checking trunks and back seats for a possible weapon or backpack believed to be used during the commission of an armed robbery.



Above, Officer Alfonso Ortiz maintains a vigilant stance as he turns back students, staff and others from entering the campus at the northeast entrance near the round-about. Sponsored as a student by the Napa Police Department, Officer Ortiz was a 2005 graduate of the Napa Valley College Police Academy.

Below, the suspects' car is being towed as evidence and a helicopter from Channel 2 shared air space with 'copters from Channels 4 and 7, a CHP 'copter and a CHP fixed wing aircraft during the on-campus search for robbery suspects.



Photos by Richard Bruns

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and was found unattended in the campus parking lot.

Responding law enforcement from the Napa Police Department, Napa Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol and Napa Valley College Police established a perimeter around the entire campus denying access in or out of the college. Students were secured inside classrooms.

SWAT Teams from the Napa Police Department and Napa Sheriff's Department responded to the campus and began a preliminary search of the buildings. During this time information was developed that one of the suspects was located inside the campus library. Police negotiators' contacted the suspect via cellular telephone and made arrangements to turn himself in for questioning. Police detained and escorted the suspect to the command post which was located in the parking lot of Kennedy Park Golf Course. The perimeter of the library was secured by SWAT teams while arrangements were made to secure students and staff inside the library to a pre-arranged staging area. During this process, the second suspect was located among the students and was detained for questioning.

Investigators from the Napa Police Department and Napa Sheriff's Department subsequently arrested the two detained individuals for robbery and conspiracy. The suspects' identity is described as follows:

- Marques Nabote Williams, BMA, 29 years old, 5-9, 165, Black/Brown, DOB 3/6/80. Williams resides in Oakland, CA.
- Darrell Boston, BMA, 43 years old, Black/Brown, DOB 11/10/65. Boston resides in Oakland, CA.


Williams and Boston were booked into the Napa County Department of Corrections.

At approximately 5:30 p.m. the campus lockdown was lifted and students were released from classrooms. Evening classes were cancelled and access into the college was denied while investigators processed the crime scene. A search of the suspect vehicle revealed a replica semi-automatic BB gun which is believed to be used during the robbery. Due to the size of the campus, the Napa County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team were summoned to the campus last



Photos by Richard Bruns  
Napa Police Department Information Officer Commander Andy Lewis, left, answers questions from Channel 2's Amber Lee. Videotaping the interview is Napa Valley College Telecom Program graduate Bill Erikson. Erikson graduated about fifteen years ago from the NVC program, then under the leadership of Gary Vann, now retired.

**To sign up for the  
NVC **AlertU**  
warning  
system:**



Napa Valley College has a system in place called **AlertU** for real-time important security information. It was used throughout the incident yesterday. More than 700 students, faculty and staff received text messages. Another 150 signed up for the event during the incident, according to Chief Ken Arnold.

You can sign up for the campus AlertU system by going to [www.napavalley.edu](http://www.napavalley.edu) and clicking on the A-Z index. Go to "C" for College Police and continue to their home page. A shaded gray box labeled "Emergency Alert" has an area to fill in your cell phone number. After entering the phone number you would like the text message to go to you will receive a text to verify you have signed up. Text back as prompted.

night to assist in searching the campus for evidence and the money taken in the robbery. Search and Rescue personnel located the stolen money in a backpack inside the campus cafeteria.

Napa Valley College resumed classes this morning.

*Authorized By: Commander Andy Lewis.*



Camera operator Bill Erikson has been working for Channel 2 for more than a dozen years.

### NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE NEWS

is a publication for faculty, staff and students of Napa Valley College and the community which the college serves.

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