

Arizona Community College Presidents' Council

Statement Regarding Guns on Campus Legislation

SB1474 Weapons; University; College Grounds

From Michael Kearns, Chair of the Arizona Community College Presidents' Council

1-31-12

The Arizona Community College Presidents' Council, representing the state's 10 community college districts, is opposed to any legislation that encourages or allows students, visitors, faculty or non-law enforcement personnel to carry firearms on campus.

The CCW permit referred to in SB1474 requires little to no training and in no way assures us that holders will have the expertise to safely address a security issue on campus grounds or inside a classroom.

The requirements for obtaining a CCW permit in Arizona have been drastically watered down in the past few years. Today, a person who presents an expired permit from another state can qualify for an Arizona CCW permit.

SB1474 also sets a lower standard of penalty for violation of this law, from a class 1 misdemeanor to a petty offense -- essentially the equivalent of trespassing. This is certainly not a strong deterrent against violation of the law.

Our professional campus security teams have extensive and ongoing training in emergency response. They are in the best position to ensure the security of a college campus.

In 2010, the Arizona Community College Presidents' Council became a member the Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, an nationally recognized advocacy organization the mission of which is to educate voters about and supporting legislation that favors sound gun violence prevention policies.

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