POINT PARK
U N I V E R S I T Y

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Point Park University launches free smartphone app to allow instant, anonymous communication with campus police officers

PITTSBURGH, PA – Point Park University can now provide members of its community a way to anonymously send secure messages to campus police through a free smartphone app, whether it's information about crime, drug use, bullying, hazing or other suspicious activity.

Developed by tip411, the Point Park Police Department Tips app puts a powerful new safety tool into the hands of students, staff and faculty. For Jeffrey Besong, Assistant Vice President of Public Safety and the Chief of Police for Point Park University, the app is the latest in a series of safety additions to campus over the past year, including body-worn cameras and the heroin antidote Narcan. Besong is a finalist for the 10th annual Campus Safety Director of the Year Award, a national recognition he has received for his innovative and proactive approach to campus safety.

"We have always given a hard look to any tool we can add that will help deter criminal activity on campus and in our area of Downtown Pittsburgh," Besong said. "This app offers a fast and simple way for people to reach us directly with concerns and problems."

Communication via the app is 100 percent anonymous, and Point Park Police instantly receives the messages via text and email. The submitter can engage in a two-way conversation that remains anonymous, as the app removes all identifying information before officers see the tips.

Point Park is the first University in the region to partner with tip411 – a Web-based toolset used in more than 1,400 communities across the U.S. -- on the smartphone app.

"The tip411 system has been successful in communities across the U.S.," said Terry Halsch, president of tip411. "We are excited to partner with Point Park as one of the first universities to use the new school edition of our innovative tip411 app to directly connect and engage students, faculty and staff."

The Point Park PD Tips app provides access to University information, websites, social media channels and more. It can be downloaded for free via the Google Play Store, iTunes App Store, or by visiting the Point Park website at pointpark.edu/About/AdminDepts/PublicSafety.

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Founded in 1960, Point Park University, recently named a [College of Distinction](#)*, is a dynamic, urban university with a strong liberal arts tradition. Located in Downtown Pittsburgh, Point Park enrolls nearly 4,000 full- and part-time students in more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs offered through the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Communication and Conservatory of Performing Arts. Visit* [PointPark.edu](#) *to learn more.*

About tip411: *Used in more than 1,400 communities across the US, tip411 is a Web-based toolset that features innovative smartphone apps, anonymous text tips, group alerting, and secure social media publishing tools.Tip411 helps agencies engage community members of all ages by enabling anyone with a cell phone to submit tips via a smartphone app or text anonymous tips that can be responded to in real time by authorized personnel in the agency or organization. Learn more at* www.tip411.com *or by following* [@tip411CO](#) *on Twitter.*