

**IACLEA Position Statement
Concealed Weapon Carry Proposals**

**IACLEA Board of Directors
March 19, 2008**

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, Inc., (IACLEA) has been asked by its Members to react to legislative initiatives in some states that would allow students to carry concealed weapons on college and university campuses.

IACLEA's Board of Directors believes "concealed carry" initiatives do not make campuses safer. There is no credible evidence to suggest that the presence of students carrying concealed weapons would reduce violence on college campuses. In fact, we are concerned that concealed carry laws have the potential to dramatically increase violence on college and university campuses that our Members are empowered to protect.

In an article published in *The Christian Science Monitor*, Jon Vernick, the co-director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research in Baltimore, MD, was quoted as stating that "the best science that we have says concealed carry laws do not save lives, as the proponents contend."

Among the concerns with concealed carry laws or policies are: the potential for accidental discharge or misuse of firearms at on-campus or off-campus parties where large numbers of students are gathered or at student gatherings where

alcohol or drugs are being consumed, as well as the potential for guns to be used as a means to settle disputes between or among students. There is also a real concern that campus police officers responding to a situation involving an active shooter may not be able to distinguish between the shooter and others with firearms.

We urge public policy makers to proceed with extreme caution in dealing with proposals to allow college students to carry concealed weapons on campus. IACLEA is committed to working with public policy makers on reasonable solutions to enhance campus public safety. We are working with other campus public safety stakeholders to provide and promote campus crime prevention training programs, as well as to develop strategies and programs to enhance emergency preparedness.