

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gary Jenkins, Chief of Police

Pullman Police Department

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Kiwanis and ASWSU Donate “Beer Goggles”

PULLMAN – The Kiwanis Club of Pullman and the Associated Students of Washington State University (ASWSU) have donated funds to purchase Fatal Vision “Beer Goggles” for community presentations by the Pullman Police Department.

The Pullman Police Department averages between 120 and 150 DUI arrests annually. In addition to enforcement efforts, officers conduct public educational programs that address the dangers and consequences of alcohol and drug use. The Pullman Police Department is completely committed to alcohol and drug abuse prevention and mitigation efforts. Two Pullman Police Officers are assigned exclusively to work with University students, faculty and staff, as well as residents, to mitigate these types of issues through education and prevention programs. The programs presented by these two officers alone reach thousands of college students. Additionally, we regularly make presentations to K-12 students through the Pullman School District and we have an active DARE program. A Pullman Police Officer is assigned exclusively to the K-12 schools as a School Resource Officer and a DARE Officer. Pullman officers made approximately 135 presentations to students in 2010.

The Pullman Police Department has the unique opportunity to enhance our alcohol abuse education and mitigation efforts with the use of a “Fatal Vision Goggles” kit. The main component of this kit is goggles that simulate alcohol impairment and is an evidence-based prevention tool used to educate people of all ages about the consequences of alcohol misuse and abuse. The kit includes tools for simulating impairment at six distinct blood alcohol content levels. Each impairment level and suggested activities will provide us the ability to create engaging and relevant experiences that will support and enhance our prevention and awareness efforts. This tool will help us deliver a sobering lesson to people of all ages about the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

The Pullman Police Department sought the assistance from local service clubs to purchase a

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“Fatal Vision Starter Kit”. The Kiwanis Club of Pullman and ASWSU both generously donated approximately half the total cost each to purchase the \$1,200 kit. Providing valuable lessons about impaired driving and traffic safety, particularly to teens and young adults, will serve to improve public safety and the overall quality of life in the City of Pullman.

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