



Fifteen Take Oath of Office

A bagpiper led the procession. Color guards followed, and then came the officers in their navy-blue uniforms, ushering in a new era of public safety at the college.

On Aug. 22, 15 officers took an oath of office at a swearing-in ceremony in the Capitol Federal Conference Room, Regnier Center, making them the first state-certified officers of the newly formed JCCC Police Department.

Shirley Brown-VanArsdale, chair, board of trustees, conducted the formal swearing in of the oath of office.

The board approved the establishment of a campus police department in April. Formerly Public Safety, the department became JCCC Police Department on Sept. 1, operating as a fully-functioning police department. Ranks include sergeant, deputy chief and police chief. Certified officers carry firearms, police batons and OC pepper spray.

“It’s been a very long haul,” said Gus Ramirez, police chief. “The trustees were extremely supportive.”

With 677 years of combined police experience in the JCCC Police Department, the newly sworn in officers will handle the responsibility in a professional manner, Ramirez said.

“From this day forward we’re not going to hire anyone unless they are state-certified police officers,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez chose a formal swearing-in ceremony for its historical implication and to let the college know what the JCCC Police Department represents.

“This is a really big move,” Ramirez said.

Dr. Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president, thanked the officers for their efforts.

“We know the bravery and courage you provide, helping us plan for the worst, hoping for the best,” Calaway said.

John Armilio, an officer with JCCC since September of 2007, said being sworn in was not much of a transition for him. His 30 years of police work with the Kansas City Police Department make him a seasoned officer.

“It offers a peace of mind for students,” Armilio said. “We will have the ability and authority to react to immediate problems.”

Larry Dixon, deputy chief, was also sworn in.

“It’s going to be a good change,” Dixon said. “Most of us were former police officers.”

Dixon said as a police department officers can act as technical responders in emergencies.

“We’ll be there first,” he said. 🌿

Story by Linda Friedel

Police Department

Fifteen officers took the oath of office to support the U.S. Constitution; the constitution and laws of the state of Kansas; the rules, regulations and policies of JCCC; county resolutions; and ordinances of the city of Overland Park, and to faithfully discharge the duties of police officer.