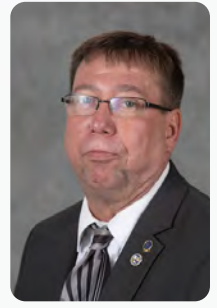


# THE CHIEF'S *Brief* DECEMBER 2024



Welcome to this month's Chief's Brief. This month is a special edition congratulating our graduates who have worked so hard to achieve success here at Southeastern, as well as my thoughts as I head off for a new challenge in my career.

In July of 2020, I arrived at Southeastern to take the helm of the University Police Department, at the same time that many who are graduating this Saturday started their journey at Southeastern. We came into a setting not knowing what the future held in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing, masks, and virtual student activities became the norm. We all faced many challenges, but you as students stayed the course and this Saturday is the result of your hard work, dedication, and growth during the last four years.

I too had to look at how the University Police Department could overcome these obstacles and hold true to the vision of being a police department that is *part* of Southeastern, not just another police department. Looking back, I think that we have succeeded and your police department exceeds expectations in being part of this community by building relationships and truly playing a role in the growth of Southeastern.

I have accepted a new position with Oklahoma State University as their Chief of Police. My last day at Southeastern will be January 17, 2025. As I am excited about the new challenges I face, I have mixed emotions about leaving the Southeastern community. Southeastern has been home for me for the last 4 ½ years and the officers of this department have done so much in succeeding to change the perceptions of the police department. There are many things that we have accomplished, such as the Lion Safe App and also unique programming that not only educates our community, but built long lasting bonds. We faced challenges, but the officers always rose to the occasion during each incident.

There are many individuals I would like to thank but too many to list in this brief. However, I would like to give a special thanks to Presidents Dr. John Crain and Dr. William Wainwright, and Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Eric Summers, for believing in my leadership.

I would also like to thank all of the Division for Student Affairs staff who we have worked with us to build community engagement events.

I thank all of the staff, faculty, students, and community members who have supported our efforts.

Finally, but the most important to me, are the officers and staff of the University Police Department. They have excelled beyond what was asked of them. From developing their own programs, taking on new duties, and furthering the safety on campus. I cannot say enough about the members of your police department but the words *thank you*, sum it up.

Rest assured, these programs will continue. The Chief's Brief will now be done by another member of the department... it won't be as good, but it will continue - *Ha Ha!*

Continue to reach out to the officers and they will make sure they continue to provide the community with outstanding service. Have a great holiday break and once again, *thank you* for your support.

To our Southeastern community, my final *LION UP!*

*Chief Michael T. Beckner*  
Southeastern Department of Public Safety

