



Central Office

Post Office Box 93
West Sand Lake, NY 12196-0093

Phone / Fax: (877) NCEMSF-1
Email: info@ncemsf.org
Web: <http://www.ncemsf.org>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Five Universities Recognized as HEARTSafe CAMPUSES

Boston, MA - The National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMSF) at its 21st Annual Conference last week announced the addition of five universities as the newest HEARTSafe CAMPUSES.

Launched in 2013, the HEARTSafe CAMPUS designation was developed to encourage and promote community awareness of the potential for saving lives with effective CPR and early defibrillation. NCEMSF, with support from the HEARTSafe COMMUNITIES, the American Heart Association, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, developed the award program for colleges and universities with a specific focus on the awareness, training and safety of cardiac arrest emergencies. The intent of the program is to recognize campus based EMS organizations and their communities and hold them out as examples to other campuses as a means to improve overall cardiac arrest care. NCEMSF affirms that the cornerstone of any HEARTSafe Campus is a vibrant campus-based emergency medical response organization.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and MIT EMS was the first organization to qualify for this award last year (they were also the first college to be labeled a HEARTSafe COMMUNITY). Their continued dedication to effective cardiac arrest management and training remains an example for all collegiate communities.

Having completed and submitted the rigorous self-assessment and verification packet on behalf of their campuses and fulfilling all required criteria to improve the chances that anyone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest will have the best possible chance for survival, NCEMSF proudly acknowledges and labels the following university campuses and their campus based EMS organizations as HEARTSafe for the three-year period 2014-2017:

1. **Binghamton University and Harpur's Ferry Student Volunteer Ambulance Service**
2. **Syracuse University and Syracuse University Ambulance**
3. **University of Massachusetts-Lowell and UMass Lowell EMS**
4. **University of Pittsburgh and Pitt Student Emergency Medical Services**
5. **University of Richmond and University of Richmond EMS**

Each campus received parking signs with the HEARTSafe logo to display near the entrances to campus and decals for buildings on their campuses. These schools form a short but growing and distinctive list of colleges and universities that are striving to be healthier and safer places to live and learn.

Additional information and applications can be found online at www.heartsafecampus.org

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, in conjunction with NCEMSF, also recognized those collegiate EMS providers involved with any on-campus CPR/AED save over the course of the last academic year. In total, thirteen providers, representing seven different universities (Binghamton University, Harvard University, Rice University, The George Washington University, University of Delaware, University of Illinois, and University of Vermont), received a special commendation for their heroism.

About NCEMSF

Founded in 1993, NCEMSF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to scholarship, research and to creating safer, healthier environments on college and university campuses through the support, promotion, and advocacy of campus-based emergency medical services. In addition to providing for the acquisition of medical knowledge, campus-based EMS allows student participants to develop life skills including leadership, communication, and decision-making. NCEMSF creates an environment where ideas can be exchanged and problems solved.

Contact:
HEARTSAFECAMPUS@ncemsf.org