To the Williams community,

I’m writing to share the bittersweet news that Director for Campus Safety Services Dave Boyer has informed me of his plans to retire in August.

For the past 32 years, Dave has been an extraordinary leader on campus. Among his many accomplishments, he managed the college’s emergency preparedness program and substantially advanced our work in that arena by leaps and bounds. He established the initial Clery Reporting program, which increased transparency regarding safety incidents on and around campus. He also initiated the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Accreditation process, the gold standard for college safety offices, which is near completion.

When Dave came to Williams, he brought a level of professionalism to the department that continues to grow today. He infused integrity, respect and a deep commitment to service to students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors. As a result, our campus safety team has earned the respect and admiration of their peers, both in higher education and in our wider community. The breath of the activities he has managed over the decades, and the team he has built, is nothing short of amazing. As former Vice President for Campus Life Steve Klass said, “Under Dave’s leadership, and in collaboration with a number of other offices, we were always in good hands in terms of planning and response.”

In addition to being a collaborative and compassionate leader, Dave has a strong belief in the value of a residential liberal arts experience and a passion for helping students pursue their paths at Williams. He is also well known for his sense of humor. (His role as Santa Claus and retelling of ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas at the recent Virtual Holiday Hour is a must-see.) As former Executive Director for Facilities Operations and current Human Resources Partner Bob Wright said, “Dave’s ability to remain calm in the face of chaos with a touch of humor has served him and the Williams community well. His thoughtful leadership and sincere friendship will be missed.”

Williams has been a grateful beneficiary of his talents, and we have big shoes to fill. The college will begin a search for his successor, but in the meantime, please join me in thanking and congratulating Dave for his contributions to Williams, and in supporting our CSS colleagues during the months ahead.

Lastly, I’ll conclude with these words from Dean of the College Marlene Sandstrom, who said, “Dave understands better than most that all paths have curves and bumps and tricky spots. Life throws us emergencies and accidents, and lots of forks in the road. Many thanks for decades of helping students stay on course despite the detours, and for helping them achieve their goals.”

Fre