Lt. Shawn Smith Helps Keep UTSA Campus Community Safe, Earns Celebrating Excellence Award

UTSA Police Department’s Lt. Shawn Smith has been selected as the Business Affairs Celebrating Excellence Employee of the Quarter. Shawn, who was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant on June 1, 2018, was recognized for his development of a new active-shooter training video specific to UTSA.

He employed the VPBA Guiding Principles by creating a dynamic, potentially life-saving, video featuring people and locations at the university. He partnered with several university departments to produce the video, including the UTSA Video Production Group, which recorded and edited the video. He recruited several UTSA employees and students as actors. While Shawn led this video project, he would be the first to acknowledge all the hard work that went into the video production by others at UTSA. By collaborating with these on-campus resources, he kept the cost of production down. Using outside resources to produce this video would have been cost prohibitive.

During the filming, he respected others on campus by partnering with UTSA VPBA Communications and UTSA Communications to alert the campus community of the video production. This prevented concerns by assuring people this was a staged event. He secured the support and assistance of the San Antonio Fire Department, whose presence added credibility and realism to the production.
Shawn valued all input and collaborative efforts from everyone involved in the development of this video. He saw the need to **Do the Right Thing** by producing a video that has the potential for saving lives. While canned products are available, this in-house video allows the viewer to identify with the people and classroom settings specific to UTSA. The video is not like the generic videos that start with gunshots. It shows the beginning of a typical day in a professor’s and student’s life, which turns into a day none of us want to experience with an active shooter.

“Having this knowledge can empower students, staff and faculty. We all pray and hope that this day will never come, but the video prepares the viewer for this type of event, which could result in lives saved.”

Kudos to Shawn for this truly great effort, which exemplifies the Business Affairs Guiding Principles.

The video gives the viewer the tools to help save their life in the event of an active shooter by stressing the importance of Avoid-Deny-Defend principles. “You play what you practice,” said Chief Gerald Lewis, whose sports analogy is useful in readiness planning.