



SAFETY ALERT

2019-006

Dear Members of the CMU Community,

I am writing to let you know of a recent sophisticated telephone scam that targeted at least one of our international students.

On Sunday, Aug. 18, a CMU student received a telephone call from an individual pretending to be from a Chinese law enforcement agency. The caller informed the student that he was the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation related to stolen Chinese passports and the Chinese police were sending Pittsburgh police officers to arrest him. The caller then informed the student he would not be arrested if he emailed a copy of his passport and transferred money into a Chinese bank account. We have contacted our local FBI bureau about this incident.

Unfortunately, we understand this is not an isolated occurrence and scams like this are being conducted on college and university campuses nationwide.

Please understand that no government or law enforcement agency will ever demand money or threaten arrest in this fashion. You should not comply with such requests, and never provide personal information, such as your social security number, bank account number or credit card number, to a caller you don't know. If you receive such a call, hang up and immediately report the call to University Police at 412-268-2323.

In closing, I encourage you to be extra aware of your surroundings and vigilant as the new semester gets underway. Please report any suspicious individuals or activities to University Police at 412-268-2323.

Sincerely,

Lt. Joseph Meyers
Carnegie Mellon University Police