



SafeZone
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PRESS RELEASE

CriticalArc and University of Kentucky Convene Leaders to Advance a Vision for a Safer Kentucky

CriticalArc and the University of Kentucky bring together higher education, healthcare, and public safety leaders to advance a shared vision for a safer, more connected Kentucky, and establish a model for collaboration that can scale across the nation.

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, July 6, 2026 – Following the successful Safer Kentucky Symposium hosted in partnership with the University of Kentucky Police Department, SafeZone® by [CriticalArc](#) is highlighting a growing movement among higher education, healthcare and public safety leaders to create a more connected approach to safety across the Commonwealth.

The symposium, led by **University of Kentucky Chief of Police Joe Monroe**, brought together leaders from universities, healthcare systems, and public safety organizations to explore how collaboration, communication, and shared situational awareness can strengthen safety outcomes across Kentucky. Building on the themes outlined in the University of Kentucky's [recent coverage of the event](#), the discussion focused not only on institutional preparedness, but on what becomes possible when safety is viewed as a statewide priority rather than an individual organizational responsibility.

For SafeZone by CriticalArc, the event represented more than a symposium. It was an opportunity to bring together organizations that share a common belief: safer communities are built through partnerships, trusted relationships, and coordinated action.

"From the beginning, Chief Monroe and I shared a belief that Kentucky could become a model for what statewide safety collaboration looks like," said **Darren Chalmers-Stevens, President at CriticalArc**. "What made this symposium so powerful was the willingness of leaders from higher education, healthcare, and public safety to come together around a common purpose. We weren't just discussing challenges; we were exploring what becomes possible when institutions view safety as a shared responsibility."

Throughout the event, participants discussed how modern safety challenges increasingly extend beyond the boundaries of any single campus, hospital, or municipality. Emergencies, severe weather, public health incidents, and major community events often require organizations to communicate and coordinate across jurisdictions. Creating stronger connections before incidents occur can improve response, enhance support services, and build greater resilience across entire communities.

The symposium also highlighted the broader impact of safety on Kentucky's future. As students, parents, faculty, clinicians, and professionals evaluate where to study, work, and build their careers, safety has become a defining factor in those decisions. By strengthening collaboration across higher education, healthcare, and public safety, Kentucky has an opportunity to distinguish itself as a state where people can learn, work, and thrive with confidence.

"Safety is no longer just an operational responsibility. It is a strategic advantage," said Monroe. "Parents want to know their children will be supported. Students want to feel safe on campus. Employees and healthcare workers want confidence that their wellbeing is a priority. By working together, Kentucky can become a destination recognized not only for opportunity, but for providing one of the safest and most connected environments in the nation."

The University of Kentucky has already demonstrated its commitment to this vision through significant investments in campus safety, including the deployment of [SafeZone](#), CriticalArc's unified safety and wellbeing platform, alongside expanded emergency response capabilities, enhanced communications, and technology-driven security initiatives. Chief Monroe has consistently emphasized that effective safety programs are built on visibility, collaboration and community trust.

SafeZone helps organizations create direct connections between those who need assistance and those responsible for providing it. By enabling faster access to help, improving situational awareness, and supporting coordinated responses across campuses and healthcare environments, the platform plays an important role in helping institutions strengthen both safety and wellbeing outcomes.

"Technology is an important enabler, but it is never the end goal," said Chalmers-Stevens.

"SafeZone helps organizations build the connections that matter most, between students and support services, clinicians and security teams, employees and emergency responders. When institutions can communicate and collaborate more effectively, they create environments where people feel safer, more supported, and more confident in their ability to succeed."

The conversations sparked during the Safer Kentucky Symposium are also informing broader discussions occurring across the United States. CriticalArc is working with institutions and public safety leaders in states including Texas, Minnesota, and Indiana to explore similar models of collaboration that connect universities, healthcare systems, and community partners around a shared safety vision.

While every state faces unique challenges, the underlying opportunity remains the same: creating environments where people feel supported, protected, and empowered to succeed.

"What excites me most is that Kentucky is demonstrating a blueprint that can be replicated elsewhere," said Chalmers-Stevens. "The challenges facing higher education, healthcare, and public safety are not unique to one state. By bringing together the right leaders, creating trusted partnerships, and leveraging proven technology, we can help communities across Texas and beyond build safer, more connected environments. Kentucky is showing what's possible when organizations unite behind a shared vision."

Importantly, the Safer Kentucky Symposium was not intended to be a one-time event. Rather, it marked the beginning of an ongoing collaboration between the leaders and organizations represented at the symposium, united by a shared commitment to strengthening safety, wellbeing, and community resilience across Kentucky. Participants expressed strong interest in expanding the conversation to include additional stakeholders from higher education, healthcare, public

safety, government, and community organizations, creating an even broader network of collaboration and shared learning. SafeZone by CriticalArc remains committed to supporting these visionary leaders as they build upon the momentum generated by the symposium, helping foster the partnerships, strategies, and technologies that will enable safer, more connected communities throughout Kentucky and beyond.

The Safer Kentucky Symposium demonstrated that when leaders unite around a common vision, safety becomes more than a response capability: it becomes a strategic investment in the future of an entire state.

For more information on CriticalArc and SafeZone go to criticalarc.com or email marketing@criticalarc.com.

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About the University of Kentucky

As the state's flagship, land-grant institution, the University of Kentucky exists to advance the Commonwealth. We do that by preparing the next generation of leaders — placing students at the heart of everything we do — and transforming the lives of Kentuckians through education, research and creative work, service and healthcare. We pride ourselves on being a catalyst for breakthroughs and a force for healing, a place where ingenuity unfolds. It's all made possible by our people — visionaries, disruptors and pioneers — who make up 200 academic programs, a \$1.02 billion research and development enterprise and a world-class medical center, all on one campus.

About CriticalArc

CriticalArc provides [SafeZone®](#), the unified safety, security and emergency management solution that helps large organizations keep their people safe and respond more effectively to critical incidents so they can fulfill their duty of care and mitigate risks. SafeZone fundamentally transforms the ability to manage personal safety, security, and emergency situations so organizations can respond faster and more effectively to protect their most important asset, their people. Through real-time visualization, communications, and response coordination, SafeZone streamlines operations, is easy to use and quick to deploy. For more information on CriticalArc and SafeZone, please go to criticalarc.com, email marketing@criticalarc.com or call +1-800-985-9402.

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