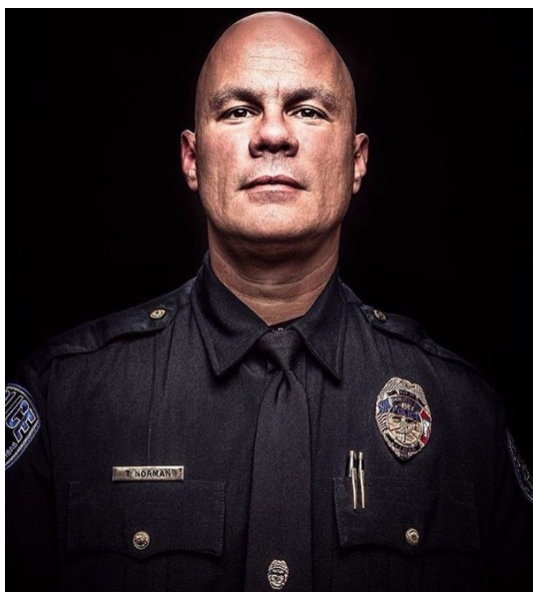




COMMUNITY POLICING RISES IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK

African American Studies program invites police officer to speak at event



Officer Tommy Norman, North Little Rock Police Department

CONWAY, Ark. (Nov. 19, 2016) -- North Little Rock Police Officer Tommy Norman visited the students of the University of Central Arkansas on Nov. 3, 2016, to talk about community policing.

The [African/American Studies Program](#) hosted this event to for Norman to tell about his dedication to connecting with the community in an effort to bridge the gap through trust and respect.

Forty-four-year-old Norman was born and raised in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Along with his twin sister, Tammy, Norman is the youngest of nine children in his family.

[Community Policing](#) comprises three key components:

- Community Partnerships
- Organizational Transformation
- Problem Solving

“I can remember early on in my life, my mom always taught us to put others first,” Norman said, “even if that meant to do with out. It was really important information at such a young age, and that always stuck with me.”

Norman always wanted to work with people. He never knew he would become a police officer. In 1997, Norman applied to become a cop at North Little Rock Police Department, where he was then hired in June of 1998.



Students from the African/American Studies Program pose with Officer Tommy Norman, for the UCA Bear Blog in the College of Business on Nov. 3, 2016.

Norman began community policing a few years after he became a police officer. Norman said he was still a normal police officer but got to be more involved in the lives of the people in his community.

Norman's community policing have been noticed by many people around the world. His Instagram account has more than one million followers. He is most famous for his videos with the children in his community.

Cera Ledbetter, a UCA women's basketball player, attended this event, said she loved how Norman takes the time to give back to the community.

"I love watching his Instagram videos," said Ledbetter. "Seeing the smiles on the kid's faces when he is around lets me know he takes his job seriously."

The Game, hip-hop rapper, started a [GoFundMe](#) account this past summer because he was so impressed with Norman's ability to communicate and form bonds with children of all races around his community. The account has raised over \$65,000.

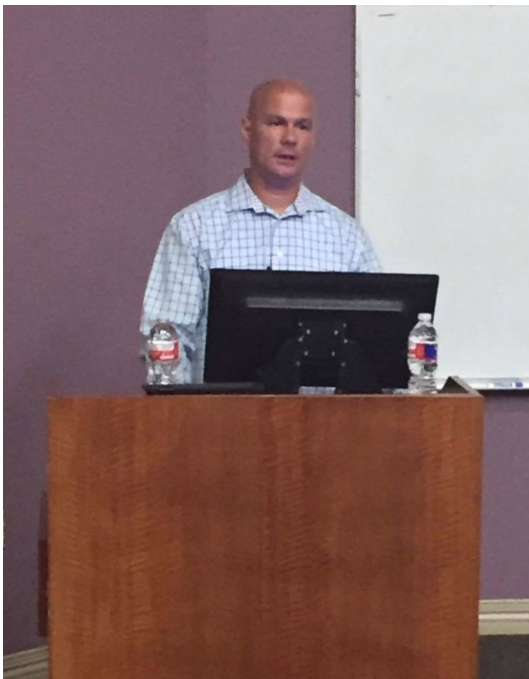
"Community policing is a lot about forming relationships," said Norman, "and it's also about having people who commit crimes and are running, and you being that person that they feel they can turn to."

Dr. Michael [Kithinji](#), chairman of the African American Studies Program, said he enjoys seeing the great things Norman brings to the community.

"Tommy Norman is a model officer who has cultivated positive relationship with



Hana Williams, left, meets Officer Tommy Norman for the first time in the College of Business on Nov. 3, 2016.



Officer Tommy Norman talks to the students of UCA in the College of Business on Nov. 3, 2016.

Norman's Big
Family:
Basically
Everyone

Video

PSA



the African-American community in North Little Rock, which has won him public confidence and national and international acclaim," said Kithinji. "The success of Officer Norman's community policing approach demonstrates what the police and the community can accomplish when they work in tandem."

After 20 years of being a police officer, Norman has had multiple chances of being promoted, but he refuses because he eats, sleeps and breathes community policing, he said.

Norman meets children at the bus stop after school, visits schools and visits the elderly at nursing homes just because he truly cares about the people in his community.

As a teen, Norman mowed grass in North Little Rock for extra money. One day, Norman came home from mowing and turned on the television where he saw a program called Feed the Children. Norman said it really captured his heart so he sent his earned mowing money to the program so he could help as much as he could.

"I knew at 13 years old, I had a servant's heart," said Norman. "I didn't know it would lead me to the platform God has blessed me with today."

ABOUT THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT

The North Little Rock Police Department strives to make Arkansas a great place to live. We are committed to serving the community while protecting the rights of all persons. It is the vision to achieve a city free from



crime and public disorder. Our focus is to maintain a safe and secure environment for all citizens of North Little Rock.

Officer Tommy Norman visits the students of an elementary school.

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