

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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NEWS RELEASE

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Arrest made in connection to several campus burglaries

AMES, Iowa -- Iowa State University Police have made an arrest in the investigation of several burglaries inside academic buildings between Sept. 14-25, 2021. The arrest comes after Ames Police responded to a call for service and found items stolen from ISU.

Donavan Dean Cirksena, age 41 of Ames, was subsequently found to be in possession of items reported stolen from Black Engineering, Curtiss Hall, Enrollment Services, and the Forker Building. Cirksena was arrested and is currently being held in the Story County Jail.

A campus-wide crime alert was issued on Sept. 21, 2021 regarding the burglaries. Total value of the stolen computers, electronics, and tools was approximately \$30,105. Many of the items were recovered. Cirksena has no known affiliation with Iowa State University.

Cirksena has been charged with the following in relation to the ISU cases: ongoing criminal conduct (class B felony), theft 1st degree (class C felony), burglary 3rd degree (class D felony)-2 counts, theft 2nd degree (class D felony), theft 3rd degree (aggravated misdemeanor)-5 counts, and criminal mischief (simple misdemeanor).

While no victim is to blame for what happens to them, there are recommendations on how individuals can increase their personal safety. These include:

- Keep all offices and laboratories locked when not in use.
- Keep your keys with you and lock office doors.
- Make sure office doors and windows are locked and shut completely.
- If doors or windows are not securing properly, contact your building supervisor or FP&M to submit a repair request.
- Do not leave valuable items unsecured.
- Keep desks, cabinets, and drawers locked when not in use.
- Petty cash should be kept to a minimum and stored in a secure location.
- Watch out for your co-workers. If someone forgets to secure their area or property, keep an eye on it.
- Be observant and report suspicious individuals or incidents to the ISU Police Department.