February 24, 2015

Dear colleagues,

Dartmouth works hard to safeguard your personal information that is stored in our information technology systems. However, as the January cyber-attack on Anthem has shown, threats to data security have become increasingly common and more sophisticated. As a precaution, our Information Technology Services department is taking several steps to reduce the risk of future unauthorized access to our data.

In one of a series of heightened security measures we are putting in place, Dartmouth will soon implement a system of enhanced authentication, which will add an additional step to your log-in procedure and use what are commonly called "security questions." You likely use this type of knowledge-based question to access online services in banking, credit, and other financial systems. The authentication process--proving you are who you say you are--involves asking you questions in addition to your username and password.

All Dartmouth computer users have already selected their security questions and answers as part of the process you followed to claim your email account. Over the next several months, you will see this method used for most Dartmouth systems that use web browsers. We will provide further information on enhanced authentication before the change is implemented.

Another step the College is taking to improve information security is offering online training modules that employees can view at their own pace. The training modules are designed to demonstrate how to protect your own private data as well as Dartmouth data. You will soon receive a direct invitation from Information Technology Services to view the modules. I hope you will join me in this opportunity to learn more about this important topic.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Rick Mills
Executive VP