This message is sent on behalf of the Department of Public Safety.

Scams targeting URI community
February 23, 2018

The University's Police Department is alerting the campus community to two different financial scams.

One involves students receiving fraudulent checks in the mail. While there are few details about how this works, police say the checks look authentic. If an individual cashes one of these checks, the scammer gains access to the person's account. The result is a bounced check in the amount of $3,000 to $4,000, which is applied to the victim's account.

Students have also received calls about paying off their student loans using gift cards.

Both of these are cases of fraud. If you or a family member receives such a check or call, do not cash the check and do not buy a gift card through the caller. Report the incident to the University Police Department at 401-874-2121. You may also report incidents to your local or state police.