

A letter from the President

Dear Members of the PSU Community:

The tragic incident at Virginia Tech University saddens us and is very distressing. Our thoughts are with the students, parents, faculty, and staff who have experienced this terrible event.

Your personal security is very important to me and others at Portland State University. In the aftermath of such a disturbing event, you may have safety concerns. I can assure you that PSU has a well-trained public safety force which is highly responsive and has plans that address a variety of incidents. We also work closely with our public safety partners in the City of Portland. Resident assistants in the PSU student residence facilities have received a briefing on emergency protocols.

If this event causes you to feel anxious, please talk about your concerns with a resident assistant or other trusted professional. You may wish to meet with a mental health counselor at the Center for Student Health and Counseling. These services are available to enrolled students free of charge and no appointment is needed. The center is located at 1880 SW 6th Ave. (University Center Building, Suite 200, above McDonald's). Hours of service are between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday.

The Employee Assistance Program is offered to support faculty and staff who may wish to receive confidential counseling services. You can arrange an appointment by calling 503-288-5882 or 1-800-927-9432, 24-hours a day.

Because we are a community that cares about one another, please be aware of the needs of your colleagues and friends. As difficult as this news is to comprehend, it serves as a reminder that forming positive connections with others is one of the important values of a university education.

Sincerely,

Daniel O. Bernstine
President- Portland State University

A letter from the Vice President-Finance and Administration

Faculty, Staff and Students:

This week we have all been deeply saddened by the tragic events at Virginia Tech. A tragedy of this magnitude is difficult to comprehend and we feel particularly close to those victims because we are fellow educators, students and members of a university community.

While there can be no guarantees of absolute safety in a free society, we at PSU want to reassure our community that we have planned and prepared for all types of emergency situations, including acts of violence or an armed intruder on campus.

It is critical that PSU has complete and up to date response plans. Some of the key points of our plan include:

- An emergency response system that enables us to immediately notify University leaders so that critical decisions can be made.
- An immediate response from our Campus Public Safety Office which will work with the Portland Police Department to take appropriate action including, if needed, a campus lock down.
- Email and voicemail alerts as well as emergency notifications and instructions on our website.
- A commitment to keeping our community informed during the crisis through our website and local media.

We believe the Portland State University campus is among the safest in the nation. We also believe that we are well prepared for emergencies on campus and we will continue to review our plans and update them as necessary incorporating lessons learned from the Virginia Tech tragedy.

As always, we can all help keep our campus safe by being alert and reporting any suspicious activity to Campus Public Safety Office at 725-4407.

Sincerely,

Lindsay A. Desrochers
Vice President- Finance and Administration