

2-15-08

Dear Colleagues,

You have likely heard by now of the tragic events at Northern Illinois University yesterday. We extend our most sincere condolences to all of the students, faculty, and staff of our fellow institution of higher learning.

Situations such as this are always tragic, but they can also be galvanizing as well. While our thoughts turn to the senseless, inexplicable losses suffered in Illinois, we can find continued and enhanced purpose in doing everything we can to create a safe, inviting learning environment here at SLCC. We are certainly profoundly concerned for those among us who are connected to any of the NIU community—of course, we are all connected, at least in purpose. For those among us who may need assistance coming to terms with this seemingly random act of violence, we offer our full support. Professional counselors are available through the Health and Wellness Services office to our entire college community, and can be reached at 957-4268. Employees may also use the services of our Employee Assistance Program by calling 1-800-906-6642.

Please be aware that we are carefully monitoring this incident, as we have incidents in the past, to gain insight as to how we can best continue to provide for the safety of our campuses and all who work, study, or visit them. You may also have seen an article that appeared in today's Salt Lake Tribune detailing a few of the many efforts we are making to ensure that SLCC continues to provide places of learning free from violence of all kinds. Of course, the primary goal of this institution is to provide access to educational opportunity; this goal is best, perhaps only, accomplished when our students, faculty, and staff can feel secure here. I want you to know that we will continue to personally work with the Commissioner's Office to make every SLCC Campus a safe place to work and to learn.

Sincerely,

President Bioteau