



CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Affairs

February 19, 2008

Dear CAU Family,

It is unfortunate that our nation once again mourns the occurrence of horrific murders on a college campus. More specifically, with the recent deaths of six students on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at Northern Illinois University (NIU), we are again reminded of the harsh reality of possible tragedies that can happen suddenly and unpredictably. We are all greatly saddened and express our deepest condolences for the losses and injuries that have affected the lives of many people at NIU. The arms of those affected are far-reaching in our community, our country and the world we live in each day.

We recognize that there may be some individuals at CAU who have been directly impacted by the incident at NIU through their association with fellow students, administrators, faculty and/or staff members. We also acknowledge that many people in our campus community are indirectly affected as this incident elicits questions about life, death, safety and security. For our students who are encountering any challenges in responding to or coping with their reactions to this incident, please feel free to call the University Counseling Center (UCC) at (404) 880-8044 for individual support and assistance. If there is a need for a group intervention, the UCC will arrange to conduct a debriefing session for our students as well. **Also, the Division of Student Affairs and Religious Life is currently planning to partner with our neighboring institutions to support all AUC students, and CAU is preparing for an on-campus prayer vigil for our faculty and staff members later this week.** In addition, the University's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available for faculty and staff who may need some counseling or consultative services. Faculty and staff members should contact Human Resources to ascertain the number for the EAP, if they do not have this number readily available. We are also attaching some resource material that may be useful in responding to this most recent tragedy.

During times of critical incidents, it is advantageous to express thoughts, feelings and fears related to such occurrences. It is also important to seek constructive solutions for any individual challenges related to these events. CAU has support mechanisms in place that are well established to assist our students and our campus community. Please do not hesitate to utilize these resources when needed.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Hazzard Lineberger, Ph.D.
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