



## **Follow-up Statement from Chancellor Richard H. Wells**

As a follow up to my earlier message today regarding the Northern Illinois University tragedy, I am providing additional information on the resources available to our campus community for responding to a crisis as well as dealing with tragedy on a personal level and in the classroom. Our Counseling Center, as always, stands ready to consult with individuals and campus groups.

We are also in the process of planning a campus candle light vigil in partnership with our student leaders. More information will follow in the near future.

Richard H. Wells  
Chancellor  
UW Oshkosh

## **Responding to Campus Safety Concerns**

Given the information coming out about the shootings at Northern Illinois University it would be very reasonable for members of our community to ask "what should I do if I have a concern about campus safety?" When we address a distressed or dysfunctional person's behavior, both campus safety and that person's well-being are enhanced. If a person of concern is addressed with sensitivity and directness, we give them the opportunity to benefit from our assistance. When a person's behavior is dysfunctional or inconsistent with the University Code of Conduct, addressing it is vital to maintaining an appropriate environment for our learning community.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has a number of programs in place to maintain a safe and supportive campus environment.

Here are some quick reminders about these resources:

**Call 9-911**

If you feel threatened with imminent violence, call 9-911 from a campus phone or 911 from a cell phone or off campus telephone. The 911 dispatcher will route calls appropriately. If you think it is necessary, then do it.

### **If the Situation is NOT an Imminent Emergency**

If you have a concern about a person's behavior but danger does not seem imminent, you have a range of options. Often, the nature of the situation will overlap the services of different offices, so you may be confused about which office to contact. **Do not allow this uncertainty keep you from making a contact.** These offices frequently consult on complex situations and will refer callers to other offices as needed.

### **University Police 424-1212**

The University Police is a fully equipped police force who respond to on campus situations. Calling 424-1212 is the same as calling 911 because the UP dispatcher can dispatch University Officers, EMT's, Fire and Rescue and other community resources as needed. An important difference, is that the University Police will also consult with you about situations of concern to help assess threats and, if warranted have an officer present in potentially volatile situations.

Furthermore, the university will notify the campus of an unfolding crisis situation via e-mail, web page, phone tree system, direct personal contact, and other communications outlet such as the media.

### **Students At Risk Response Team (SARRT)**

[http://www.uwosh.edu/couns\\_center/SARRT.php](http://www.uwosh.edu/couns_center/SARRT.php)

Under the Leadership of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs the SARRT Team was initiated to develop strategies to best utilize the range of university resources available to assist students. The SARRT team acts as a clearinghouse to gather information about students of concern and coordinates efforts to respond to student campus needs. You can refer a student to the SARRT Team by contacting one of the Co-Chairs: Joe Abhold, Ph.D. (Counseling Center Director) or Jim Chitwood, Ph.D. (Dean of Students).

## **The University Counseling Center**

[http://www.uwosh.edu/couns\\_center/](http://www.uwosh.edu/couns_center/)

The University Counseling Center (424-2061) will consult with you about a student of concern. We can help you to offer your support and most effectively refer them to various resources on campus. The Center has a staff member on call from 8 to 4:30 to triage crisis situations and consult with faculty, staff and students about situations of concern. The Counseling Center website contains further information and resources including:

### **Coping with Tragedy**

[http://www.uwosh.edu/couns\\_center/Crisis\\_students.php](http://www.uwosh.edu/couns_center/Crisis_students.php)

### **Responding to Tragedy: What Parents and educators can do**

[http://www.uwosh.edu/couns\\_center/crisis\\_parent\\_educator.php](http://www.uwosh.edu/couns_center/crisis_parent_educator.php)

### **General Information**

[http://www.uwosh.edu/couns\\_center/index.php](http://www.uwosh.edu/couns_center/index.php)

## **Campus Violence Prevention Programs (CVPP)**

<http://www.uwosh.edu/cvpp/>

CVPP is the umbrella organization for a range of services for any student, faculty or staff who may be the victim of relationship violence which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking. These services and offices include: a campus based victim's advocate, Counseling Center Staff, CARE/MENCARE (an education oriented student organization) and community collaborators. For further information:

### **Victim Advocate**

<http://www.uwosh.edu/cvpp/911/advocates.php> for General Information about CVPP

## **The Dean of Students Office**

<http://www.tts.uwosh.edu/dean/>

The Dean of Students Office (424-3100) is the place to contact if a student's behavior *may* be in violation of the University Conduct Code or is a concern primarily from a behavior management/discipline perspective. The Dean of Students Staff will help you to determine how the University Code of Conduct may apply, formulate limit setting

or a disciplinary response. The Dean's Office may also take over the investigation and judicial process with student related complaints.

Further information about Dean of Students Office resources including campus security, emergency procedures, and disability services is available on the Dean of Students Website.

### **The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

<http://www.uwosh.edu/eap/>

The EAP is available to consult with employees regarding concerns about their personal or work related stressors and concerns or issues regarding an employee in distress. The EAP also consults with supervisors and employees about how to address conflicts or concerns with other employees.

### **Human Resources and Office of Affirmative Action**

<http://www.uwosh.edu/hr/>

<http://www.uwosh.edu/affirm-act/>

The Human Resources Office and the Office of Affirmative Action are the offices to contact with concerns about work performance, workplace harassment and similar workplace safety and climate concerns.

### **Office of the Provost**

<http://www.uwosh.edu/provost/>

The Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs are principally responsible for faculty, teaching academic staff and concerns centered in the academic dimension of campus.

### **Summary**

If you are uncertain if your situation is significant enough to contact one of these offices, Please consult with a colleague, supervisor, department chair or dean.

It is easy to minimize or talk yourself out of your concerns for a variety of reasons (e.g. "I don't want to make a big deal" "what if I am overreacting" "what if they get mad"), but it is better to consult and have someone else help you to make that decision. Remember, the goal is to express support and set limits for students, which is

something we can do successfully most of the time.

Our goal is to do everything we can to identify and respond to students who are in distress or who are exhibiting dysfunctional behavior. Hopefully, this early intervention will increase student success and avert very negative outcomes.