



STATEMENT FROM
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SHARON K. HAHS
ON BEHALF OF THE
THE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the university community at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and to the families and friends of the victims. This tragic event reminds all of us -- faculty, staff, students, and alumni -- of the importance of community, safety, and concern for each other.

Our University is committed to maintaining a safe campus for our community. By its very nature, a university is an open community. We value this freedom but, at the same time, as a community we must be vigilant and protective of our safety.

To that end, we rely on our full-time Police Department that regularly works with the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois State Police to prepare for emergency situations on campus. As partners, all of us must be the eyes and ears of the University and immediately report suspicious or unusual behavior to our Campus Police.

The University's on-going emergency planning is coordinated through the Emergency Management Team which meets monthly to discuss safety issues and document emergency plans. One member of the team, Lieutenant Paul Kruszynski, is a certified Incident Command Trainer and provides training and instruction in major disaster and emergency response situations like the one at Virginia Tech.

The tragic events at Virginia Tech affect all of us across the country. As we at Northeastern move forward from this day, we should strive to do so together.