Dear Parents of UNL Students,

The UNL community was shocked and saddened to learn of the shooting rampage on Monday at the campus of Virginia Tech University. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the students killed, the students that are still in the hospital, the parents and the entire Virginia Tech community.

Our students and members of our community are in the midst of dealing with this tragedy. The University has many resources to help students deal with tragedies of this nature. If you haven't already, this might be a good time to call your son or daughter to see how they are doing. If you sense that they could benefit from talking to a professional counselor, help is available for students at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at the University Health Center Building (Room 213). The mental health professionals in CAPS can also be reached by phone at 402-472-7450.

In general, my sense is that UNL students are responding with care and concern for those impacted by the tragedy. They have organized a candle-light vigil for tonight (Wednesday) to honor those who died and to remember those who are still suffering.

Please know that the safety of our students is our top priority. In general the UNL campus is very safe. It is well lit and we have over 500 security cameras and over 100 blue emergency phones strategically placed around campus. Our Residence Halls operate according to a set of safety procedures to enhance the safety of our students. Some of the safety measures we have in place include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Surveillance cameras have been installed in many of the residence halls (and we are working toward having them in all halls).
* Locking all units between midnight and 7:00 a.m. Entry at this time is by electronic swipe only and only through one main entrance per hall.
* All units are staffed with a professional level staff member and an undergraduate resident assistant 24/7.
* Main entrances are monitored by video and Housing employees from 7:00 a.m. to midnight.
* Campus police continually patrol the halls.

These are just a few examples. The UNL Police continually patrol the entire campus, and work with the City Police in coordinating responses to events on campus. In addition, we are constantly reviewing our safety measures and analyzing new features as they arise. This is an important and on-going process. We want our students to remain safe.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jfranco2@unl.edu or call me at 402-472-3755.

Juan N. Franco
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs