

Supportive counseling available in the wake of yesterday's tragic events

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The SUNY Broome community offered its deepest condolences to those affected by the shooting at an Oregon community college.

"Our hearts are with Oregon's Umpqua Community College at this tragic time," said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm. "It is always shocking when an act of violence occurs, and even more so when it's an institution of learning. We offer our prayers and hopes for the healing of the Umpqua community – which is our community, too. America's community colleges are among the nation's most open and accessible institutions by our very mission."

Students and other members of the campus community who would like to receive supportive counseling can contact Counseling Services, which is located in Student Services Room 210. Students can stop in to make an appointment or call 778-5210. Employee Assistance Program staff are available to provide support to faculty and staff; they can be reached at (800) 327-2255.

Unlike many community colleges, SUNY Broome's Office of Public Safety is staffed 24 hours a day by trained, armed police officers. The campus also has a close relationship with the Broome County Sheriff's Office, located immediately adjacent to campus. The campus also uses the RAVE Alert system to communicate with the campus community via text message, phone and email in case of emergencies.

Campus Peace Officers also discuss response to active shooter situations and other emergencies in the Freshman Experience course, which is taken by first-year students. The college also conducts a disaster preparedness exercise every year. But the most important aspect of campus safety, or safety anywhere today, is a vigilant community keeping an eye out for potentially threatening individuals. It is the reality of the world we live in today.

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