From the Office of the President:

In light of the recent tragedy at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, I am acutely aware that this morning’s announcement concerning a threat of violence posted in one of our campus buildings is disturbing and unsettling for all of us. Let me be absolutely clear: threats such as this will not be tolerated and the person or persons responsible will be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. To make such a threat is a felony and we will make every attempt to find those at fault and ensure that this does not happen again.

At the same time, I want to assure you that the University is taking this threat very seriously, and is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment where faculty can teach, staff can serve, and students can achieve their educational, personal, and professional goals. This will be increasingly evident as we bolster security throughout our buildings and grounds and involve local, state and federal agencies in that work.

As we continue to assess and respond to the threat, the University will remain open and committed to our mission. Students who choose not to attend class will be required to make up any missed work and should coordinate assignments with their respective faculty members. We will continue to reassess campus operations and make adjustments as warranted in the coming hours and days.

Already, a number of campus activities are being rescheduled to allow law enforcement to dedicate its resources to provide an increased police presence at primary university activities, including classes and large events. Announcements on rescheduling of individual events will be made through the event organizer and posted on the University’s home page. I want to encourage all members of the campus community to join in what needs to be a campus-wide effort to face this challenge with unity and resolve.

To reiterate an earlier announcement, the University is offering a $10,000 reward for the identification, arrest and conviction of the responsible person or persons. Anyone who may have information regarding this case is asked to call EKU Police at (859) 622-1111. Also, an online tip form is available to notify the Police of information that can be used to identify the responsible individual. This online form can be found at http://www.police.eku.edu/ekuP_tipP_reporting.

All of us join our Police Department in encouraging members of our campus community to remain vigilant in ensuring the safety of themselves and their fellow Colonels.

I like to think of EKU as a family and our campus as our home. Family members look out for each other. We do not and will not allow anyone to intimidate us or to create an environment where any of us does not feel welcomed or safe. But we will also leave to each of our family members the right to decide what they choose to do in the days ahead. Work with your faculty, staff and student colleagues to adjust schedules in the coming days as you think appropriate.
If you are a member of the EKU campus community, and you haven't already done so, I urge you to register your personal communication devices with the RAVE emergency communication system. This will allow you to have the most current information on campus safety alerts. Click https://web4s.eku.edu/prod/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin to register with RAVE via EKU Direct.

Others interested in receiving EKU emergency messages should:
Go to the Eastern Kentucky University account on the RAVE web page (http://www.getrave.com/login/eku).
Click the Register button in the upper right hand corner.
Register your information and select to receive text, voice, and/or email messaging.

Thank you for your continued service to EKU.
Yours sincerely,
Michael T. Benson
President