



February 15, 2008

Dr. John G. Peters
President
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear President Peters:

Words cannot begin to express my shock and horror at hearing of the terrible events at Northern Illinois University. The loss of life is always tragic, but especially the loss of young people with their promise for the future. Our hearts go out to their families, as well as those injured, and the entire Northern Illinois community.

Obviously, this horrific news brings to mind the hurt, pain, and trauma we experienced less than a year ago. We would like to think that institutions of learning and of rational thought would be spared such madness. Sadly, this is not the case in today's world.

I know how difficult the hours and days can be at times like this. I also know how much strength and resolve can come from the university community banding together. Our community was also tremendously bolstered by the outpouring of support from people who were touched by the tragedy here, and we hope and believe that the same support will be offered to you, the faculty, staff and students at Northern Illinois.

Again, we will keep you in our hearts and prayers, and if there is any assistance that I or any of our staff at Virginia Tech can provide, please call on us.

With sincerest sympathy,

Charles W. Steger
President