



Marva Johnson, *Chair*  
Andy Tuck, *Vice Chair*  
*Members*  
Ben Gibson  
Tom Grady  
Michael Olenick  
Joe York

March 27, 2019

Dear College President,

Like so many Floridians across our state, this past February we mourned again the tragic loss of lives as we marked the one-year anniversary of the horrific and senseless act of violence that was committed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Seventeen lives were taken that day, and our nation was devastated and in shock.

The survivors – mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers, friends and fellow students continue to try and deal with their heartbreak and loss. It's these students, the survivors of this tragedy, that I am writing to you about today.

As you have likely heard in the media, this past week two students who survived this school tragedy took their own lives in separate, unrelated incidents. One of the students was attending Florida Atlantic University, while the other was still a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas. This news reinforces the urgent need for all of us to maintain a strong focus on supporting those students still coping in the wake of this terrifying and devastating event. I am asking that you please reach out to the students on your campus that are the survivors of the violence at this school, both personally and through any additional services available on your campus to help provide the supports that may be needed. Let them know that your college staff are there for them and that there is help, and how they can access it. Also, have your staff reach out and stay in touch with their parents and let them know how your team can be reached if they need any additional support or have concerns.

As a father and as fellow education leader, I know you share the sense of loss and the obligation we have to our students and families. Let us do everything we can to prevent further tragedy and loss.

I also strongly encourage you to revisit your communication efforts in this area for all students. Include information in orientations, on your websites, for all faculty, for parents and throughout your campuses, so there is every opportunity for these students, and for each and every one of your students who are experiencing a mental health crisis, to know that help is available to them. Our team at the Department can assist your staff in identifying students enrolled at your College who were seniors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas last year, and we will share that information with you through the Division of Florida Colleges if requested. Please let us know if you need any additional information, as my staff stand ready to assist with anything you need as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Richard Corcoran

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