Dear students:

The tragic loss of life at Virginia Tech has sent a painful ripple across our nation, and across many university campuses such as ours. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all who were touched by this senseless tragedy.

Even though it is difficult to comprehend and accept that the lives of 32 innocent students and teachers were taken on that day of infamy, some things are clear. Each and every day is precious; make the most of your lives and make peace with the fact that no one could have predicted or prevented what happened in Blacksburg.

What we can do at Florida A&M University is promise you that we will take every precaution, every measure to ensure your safety to every degree possible. Key leaders from across our campus have met to look for ways to reinforce our emergency plan – and better communicate it to all students, faculty, staff and families.

I am pleased to tell you that we already have in place an Emergency Notification System that greatly enhances our ability to keep you safe. This state-of-the-art system is made possible by a federal grant that the university sought earlier this academic year. I strongly encourage you to sign up for this system now via the FAMU Web site. By doing so, you will be connected to the FAMU Police Department for instant security alerts and information that can be received via e-mail, pager and cellular telephone.

As our nation tries to move forward and find ways to heal, we must all remain vigilant, keeping our motto of “Excellence in Caring” in mind.

Report suspicious or disturbing behavior; it could save a life. Do not hesitate to seek help through a roommate, friend, professor or the university’s Counseling Center (850-599-3145); there is no shame in reaching out for assistance. Stay cautious and alert. Meanwhile, please know that FAMU endeavors to have in place the best security plan possible.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Castell Vaughn Bryant
Interim President
Florida A&M University