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Subject Impact of events of 9/11 on students

Dear Colleagues,

The tragic events of September 11 affected all of us in various ways. I would like to take this opportunity to communicate with you about some possible ways to minimize the impact of recent events on students' academic performance for this semester. Difficult times like this test the strength of our community and our resolve to help our students achieve. I encourage each of you to think creatively about ways to help support your students so that they continue to meet academic standards while simultaneously dealing in their own ways with the personal, community and societal issues that are before them.

The unusual circumstances in which students are functioning this semester create a greater need for faculty support. It is unclear what form of additional support might best serve students' needs but here are a few suggestions that you might consider: increase your office hours and/or remind students to visit during office hours, offer special review sessions, facilitate study groups that connect students to each other and foster interaction and engagement, consider the appropriateness of revising certain due dates for assignments. David Ferguson, Director of CELT, has agreed to post this information on the CELT website, which you may consult at [www.celt.sunysb.edu](http://www.celt.sunysb.edu). Additional ideas and suggestions for how instructors might support students in this regard are welcome and can be sent to David at [dferguson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:dferguson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu).

Just as we continue to process a seemingly endless flood of information and intense emotions related to the events of September 11, so too do our students. It is important to remember this is not a static event and will continue to impact all of us in a variety of ways through the coming weeks and months. If you are concerned about the academic progress of particular students in your classes who have either stopped attending or were absent for a brief period, feel free to contact Donna Di Donato in the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (2-7080), Joan Kenny in the Undergraduate Student Office in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (2-8381) or Kayla Mendelsohn in the School of Health Technology and Management who will assist you with the best method of dealing with your particular circumstance. The Provostial and Student Affairs areas are working together to respond on a case-by-case basis to students who have been directly or indirectly affected by the WTC tragedy. I encourage you all to make use of this valuable network to support the needs of our students.

For additional campus information related to the WTC tragedy, visit the University's home webpage.

Thank you,  
Robert L. McGrath, Provost & Exec VP for Academic Affairs