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IWU Campus Responds to Virginia Tech Shooting

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IWU Campus Responds to Virginia Tech Shooting

In response to the deadly shooting at Virginia Tech that horrified the nation, Illinois Wesleyan University invited all students to congregate in Evelyn Chapel Monday evening at 8 p.m. for an informal opportunity to seek or share comfort.

About 20 students gathered for quiet reflection and to share their feelings in the wake of the tragedy. Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kathy Cavins, counselors, resident assistants and members of the Student Affairs and Residential Life staff were available to offer support and respond to questions about how a similar tragedy would be handled at Illinois Wesleyan.

"Our first priority would be to assure the safety of our students and that all people are accounted for," Cavins said. "We would then enact our plan for communicating with our IWU community, parents and other stakeholders of the University and offering counseling and other support resources as necessary."

Cavins noted that Illinois Wesleyan several years ago established an Emergency Response Team to provide counsel to the president in such situations. This group of administrators meets routinely to discuss and plan campus disaster responses, and will review its own procedures in light of the Virginia Tech tragedy. Recognizing the importance of communication, the discussion will include ways to reach students in the event of emergencies.

For more information, contact the Dean of Students Office at (309) 556-3111.