Open Letter to the Parents of South Carolina State University Students

South Carolina State University is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment to its students. As you may be aware, the University has suffered a major loss with the death of Brandon Robinson, a student-athlete who was shot and killed on campus on Friday, January 24, 2014, about 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Within the hours following the fatal shooting, police arrested another SC State University student, who was subsequently charged with committing the crime.

In these days following that horrific event, our University community is in mourning for the victim and his family.

As President of South Carolina State University, I write this letter to personally reassure you in the aftermath of this incident that there is no imminent threat to our campus community, that your sons and daughters are safe and secure on the campus of this University, and that their continued safety is of paramount concern to me and those to whom you have entrusted your young adults.

It is our hope that the tragedy that occurred last Friday will never be repeated. Nevertheless, it is important that we remain ready and prepared if such a tragedy were to occur again. For your part, we ask that you continue to support and encourage your students to move forward and focus on successfully continuing and completing their education. We have grief counselors on standby to assist those students who may need help coping with this tragedy. I also want you to know that I am available to address any concerns you may have.

Please know that the University has standard protocols in place to address emergencies that occur on campus. One key component of that protocol is our e-two campus emergency notification system. This system is designed to immediately notify students, faculty, and staff of emergency situations by way of text and email. If you or your student has not yet signed up for this service, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Registering to receive the notification is easy and available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Simply go to the University’s website, www.scsu.edu, complete, and submit the online form. At the bottom of the homepage, click on the orange icon with the warning symbol. When you complete and submit the form you will be registered with the e-two campus emergency notification system.

I am confident that this University will heal and that we will carry on with purpose and confidence. Our students are resilient and have shown themselves as courageous in the midst of this crisis. We ask that you continue to support South Carolina State University as we move forward with Bulldog Pride.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Elzey
President