

## **President Dozier speaks to Savannah State community Aug. 28**

SAVANNAH – This morning, on the steps of Hill Hall, Cheryl D. Dozier, president of Savannah State University (SSU), addressed the school community and local media. She expressed her sorrow of the loss of student Christopher Starks who was killed Thursday night.

Dozier remarked:

The Savannah State University family is grieving today. Each of our students' lives are precious and valued. It is a sad day any time a life is taken by senseless violence. And this is a particularly sad day for the Savannah State University family following the loss of one of our students, Mr. Christopher Starks.

Our deepest and heartfelt condolences are extended to the entire Starks family, his parents and his extended family. To all of our Savannah State University students, our faculty, our staff and friends, we want you to know that we grieve with you today on the loss of your loved one.

While colleges and universities should be relatively safe places, it is nonetheless unfortunate that our campuses around the nation are microcosms of our communities and Savannah State University is no exception.

While law enforcement authorities are continuing the investigation, to identify the person or persons responsible for this tragedy, I am here today to express the university's sorrow for the senseless tragedy last evening and to offer reassurance that Savannah State University is a safe place for our students to attend.

It is a great university and our students, faculty and staff of our utmost priority. We consider the safety of our students the highest priority and obligation. We continue to evaluate safety measures and resources available to us to maintain a safer climate for all of those who live, learn, work and visit this university.

We have heightened security measures on campus at this time, and until further notice. You will see that there will be public safety officers at each of the gates checking the IDs of persons as they enter.

Grief counselors have been provided today for our students and we will continue throughout the weekend, and as long as needed. We thank those grief counselors who have joined us from our sister institutions, to be here to assist our students as they are mourning the loss of their fellow student and colleague.

Mostly, we want to thank our student government leadership for their stepping up and

helping to ensure their classmates that we are one SSU and that we will get through this together.

Please join me in continuing to support our mission of educating students on this great historical campus because our students and our alums are smart, bold and proud, and we are a seriously impressive campus.

We will be joining our students who have gathered at the circle in their planned event at this high noon.

Thank you for supporting us. Thank you to my team, for the leadership, to our public safety, to Savannah-Chatham, Thunderbolt, the Georgia GBI.

And all of us today will continue to pray for the family of Mr. Christopher Starks.

Thank you.