

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 27858-4353

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

March 31, 1988

Telephone (919) 757-6800 or  
(919) 757-6634

Dear Colleague:

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth today and the rate for 15 to 24 year olds has tripled since 1950. According to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, there were more than 5,000 suicides and 400,000 attempts among this age group in 1984. The awareness of suicide as a problem on college campuses has rightfully caused considerable concern on the part of college personnel and students.

Since the Family Life Conference theme of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in October 1987, the Family Life Committee has received several calls from administrators, faculty, and students with questions, problems, and concerns. The Family Life Committee is providing information for faculty and administrators to use themselves, present to students in classes, for students to present to various groups or organizations, or however they feel the information can be helpful. We are attempting to focus awareness on the part of faculty, administrators, and other students of students who are in need and ways of assisting those students. Enclosed please find for your information and consideration the following crucial handouts: 1.) How to Get Assistance for a Troubled Student and, 2.) Local Resources for Referral or Consultation.

If you have any questions or desire further information on this matter for yourself or others please feel free to call any of the resources listed. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Steve Deters*

Steve Deters, Ph.D.  
Counseling Center  
Chairperson,  
ECU Family Life Committee

*Elmer Meyer, Jr.*

Elmer Meyer, Jr., Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Student Life

*Jeannie Golden*

Jeannie Golden, Ph.D.  
Psychology Department  
Co-chairperson,  
ECU Family Life Committee

*Trenton Davis*

Trenton Davis, Dr.P.H.  
Associate Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Support

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Please note: The enclosures have been printed on the reverse of this letter.

### How to Get Assistance for a Troubled Student

1. Suggest the possibility of professional assistance while expressing your concern for the student. Do not promise confidentiality.
2. Seek permission from the student to allow your help in making arrangements for an appointment.
3. If the student gives permission, call a resource agency in the student's presence to schedule an appointment. If the student refuses a referral make clear the limits of responsibility you will assume and seek consultation if needed.
4. Offer to accompany the student to the appointment if needed and feasible.
5. Arrange a follow-up meeting with the student to see how the appointment went.

### Local Resources for Referral or Consultation

E.C.U. Student Counseling Center - 316 Wright Bldg - 757-6661

E.C.U. Student Health Service - 757-6841

Pitt County Mental Health Center - 752-7151

Real Crisis Intervention - 758-4357

University Archives And Records Center  
J. Y. Joyner Library  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

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