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By Chip Scarborough

New video aims to prevent suicides at University of Alabama

Students, staff encourage proactive measures

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Recent suicides at and around the University of Alabama have students and staff taking steps to protect possible future victims.

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"Tell someone" is the message from students and staff at the university in a new 30-second video. The production encourages anyone contemplating suicide to seek help. It also urges anyone who knows of someone showing suicidal tendencies to report it immediately.

"Really, there have been some recent suicides on campus," Student Government Association President Elliot Spillers said. "But unfortunately, this is not uncommon to college campuses across the entire nation."

University officials said they can't specifically address those recent suicides. However, in a statement, they said:

"At UA, we are always concerned about the health and safety of our students, so we do everything we can to educate them about the warning signs and the availability of resources on our campus."

Help is already available at the university's counseling center. The university said suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people ages 20 to 24.

"We want to end the stigma of mental illness on campus," Spillers said. "There is a stigma that people, I guess, feel shame or they feel a sense of disappointment whenever this issue is brought up. And we want to make sure we have a very caring and open campus here."

Help is also just a phone call away. A 24-hour crisis hotline is in place for anyone needing to talk. You can call 205-348-5454 or 800-273-8255.

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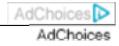
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HaroldAMaio · an hour ago

----"We want to end the stigma of mental illness on campus," Spillers said.

The proper action to take over any experienced "stigma" on campus is to file a discrimination complaint.

It differs not at all from the action one would take regarding racism.

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