In recent weeks, we have all seen the news of the suicides by several high school or college students throughout the nation related to abusive behavior they suffered. These deaths are made even more tragic in that the students were victims of some form of bullying, either face-to-face or through social media networks. This bullying is reprehensible and unacceptable anywhere in our society, and that is especially true on a campus where we come together to learn, to share and to live.

While the University addresses these issues through various policies and programs, the most effective deterrent is a campus culture that reinforces our collective commitment to the dignity of all individuals and our voices, in unison, saying bullying will not be tolerated here. Following in this e-mail is a statement by Dr. John Cavanaugh, Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, reinforcing the System’s condemnation of bullying. We ask that you, too, join in that condemnation and continue to make Ship a place at which everyone feels welcome.

Members of the campus community also have the opportunity tomorrow to view a live webcast of the PASSHE Board of Governors beginning at 9 a.m. from Kutztown University. If you want to watch the webcast, go to the PASSHE website at [www.passhe.edu](http://www.passhe.edu) and click on the webcast link.

*A message from Chancellor John Cavanaugh on harassment and ‘cyber bullying’*

PASSHE community,

Among the most important roles of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is the creation of a welcoming culture of inclusion on our campuses. Harassment of any kind—whether face-to-face or online—cannot be tolerated.

The recent suicide of a Rutgers University student, the cyber attacks on the student government president at the University of Michigan, and other tragic incidents that have occurred on college campuses have brought national attention to the issue of cyber bullying. We need no stronger reminders of how dangerous this practice can be, and the terrible effects it has on victims.
All of us must commit ourselves to addressing this very serious issue and eliminate harassment in all its forms. Many of our universities have hosted programs that can serve as examples for us all. Millersville University earlier this year hosted the Pennsylvania Cybersafe Conference, inviting both their collegiate colleagues as well as K-12 officials to participate in the program, which featured national experts as speakers and session leaders. On October 14th, Lock Haven University will present a two-hour program titled, “Yes, We Care,” to let anyone in the campus community who might feel unsafe, bullied or threatened know where they can go to seek help. Several of our campuses include “Safe Zones” that provide both resources and personal assistance. We encourage you to learn about the programs offered on your campus.

These and other similar efforts are to be commended. They should be the standard. My office stands ready to assist PASSHE universities in helping them ensure a safe living, learning and working environment for our students, faculty, and staff.

*John C. Cavanaugh is Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.*