Good-afternoon, River Valley Family,

Last year, there were 31 shootings on U.S. College Campuses. This year the number has reached 17. As I shared in my message to our college community, this is concerning to colleges around the nation and we stand united in support of our colleges and the communities we serve.

Today River Valley Community College also stands with Umpqua Community College and in solidarity with every community college around this nation at this moment in support of the students, staff and faculty of UCC, their families and community.

We stand and in honor of those who lost their lives and are recovering as a result of the mass shooting and as UCC begin(s) the process of healing their college community. The following poem: What is life, is extract/variation from Hindu Scripture and it reads as follows:

Life is Love. Enjoy it.
Life is Beauty. Praise it.
Life is Spirit. Realize it.
Life is Song. Sing it.
Life is a Mystery. Unfold it.
Life is a Challenge. Meet it.
Life is a Goal. Achieve it.
Life is an Adventure. Dare it.
Life is a Sorrow. Overcome it.
Life is a Tragedy. Face it.
Life is a Game. Play it.
Life is a Duty. Perform it.
Life is an Opportunity. Take it.
Life is a Struggle. Fight it.
Life is a Journey. Complete it.
Life is a Puzzle. Solve it.
Life is a Promise. Fulfill it.

At this time, I would like to invite an RVCC student, faculty and staff member to come forward to light the three candles on the table. In recognition of the courageous, in compassion for the faculty, staff and students and community at UCC and the third in memory of the lives that were lost. After which time, we will have a brief moment of silence. Thank you…….