



Tuesday, September 11, 2001

## OU president issues statement on tragedies

Oakland University President Gary Russi made the following statement in response to Tuesday's tragedies:

The entire OU community is deeply saddened and profoundly disturbed by the senseless acts of terrorism that occurred in Washington, D.C. and New York today. Consequently, we made the decision to close Oakland University. As of noon, all classes were canceled for the rest of today and this evening, and staff and students were sent home.

Our decision was made primarily for the safety of our students, faculty and staff; until more concrete information is available about the nature and scope of the terrorist attacks out East, we did not want to take any chances with the OU community. Canceling classes allows us the time to assess the situation more fully, and to determine what if any risk was involved in remaining open for business.

In addition, we felt it was important for students, faculty and staff to reflect on the gravity of today's events, and to spend time with their families.

Oakland University will be open as usual Wednesday, barring any unforeseen circumstances. Students and staff can get updates by calling our hotline at (248) 370-2000, or by logging onto our Web site.

We will hold an all-campus memorial Wednesday at noon in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center. Please join us as we remember the victims of today's events in our prayers and thoughts.

### SUMMARY

Oakland University President Gary Russi addresses national tragedies and the decision to close campus in a statement released Tuesday.

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