

UMass Dartmouth student struck by car and killed on campus grounds

On Thursday, faculty and staff, UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Mark Fuller said freshman bioengineering student Frank Petillo Jr. died after he was hit by a car on campus.

"This has been a very difficult week for the Corsair community," said Fuller. "We feel a collective pain even if we do not personally know those who have passed. Please keep Frank's family, friends, and classmates in your thoughts and prayers."

The university offered extra hours for students who sought counseling center and will continue to through 7 p.m. Friday. In addition, the after-hours support help line is also available at 508-910-4357.

UMass Dartmouth police and the Bristol County District Attorney's Office's State Police unit are actively investigating the incident.

"Here is UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Mark Fuller's full statement on the incident:

"Dear UMass Dartmouth Community,

I am writing to share the tragic news that, earlier today, first-year Bioengineering student Frank Petillo, Jr., was fatally struck by a vehicle on campus.

This has been a very difficult week for the Corsair community. We feel a collective pain even if we do not personally know those who have passed. We sit in class together. We work together. We pass each other in the halls. We are often more connected than we realize. If you need support, please reach

out to someone.

We are providing additional hours at the Counseling Center tomorrow (Friday) until 7 p.m. Additionally, the after-hours Support Help Line can be reached at 508-910-4357. You may request an appointment on weekdays (regular hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) by calling 508-999-8648, and you can learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at www.umassd.edu/counseling. The Center for Religious and Spiritual Life has campus ministers from several faith traditions who provide confidential pastoral counseling and can be reached at 508-999-8872.

Faculty and staff needing support are encouraged to call Human Resources at 508-999-8060 and take advantage of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for free counseling. EAP benefits may be accessed by calling 844-393-4983 or visiting their website and entering our company ID: UMASS to speak to a counseling professional.

Please keep Frank's family, friends, and classmates in your thoughts and prayers. He will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Fuller, PhD
Chancellor."