December 15, 2015

Dear University Community:

It is with deep sadness that I share the tragic loss of a member of the Iowa State family, Emmalee Jacobs. Every member of our university adds something special and unique to the Iowa State community, and it was clear Emmalee was already having a positive impact on our campus.

Emmalee, an Iowa State freshman, died yesterday after being struck by a vehicle at the corner of Lincoln Way and Ash Ave. Ames Police have now determined that the accident happened right around 7:00 Monday morning. An ISU police officer who happened to be in the area found Emmalee almost immediately. Ames Police are investigating this tragedy as a hit-and-run, and they are reviewing surveillance video in the area to try to identify the vehicle. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ames Police Department at 515-239-5133, or the anonymous tip line at 515-239-5533.

I met yesterday with the Ames city manager to review traffic along Lincoln Way and we are working to determine additional steps to improve pedestrian safety. University officials and I will also be working with Student Government leadership to identify any gaps in our current safety protocol. With the opening of Buchanan Residence Hall – Building #2 in spring 2017, the amount of pedestrian traffic will continue to increase along Lincoln Way. It is imperative that we take all necessary measures to ensure students can get to campus safely.

Losing a member of the Iowa State family is always difficult, but the loss of a young person with a bright future is particularly hard to comprehend. Counseling is available to students through Student Counseling Services at 294-5056. Faculty and staff can access our Employee Assistance Program at 1-800-327-4692.

Please keep Emmalee’s family and friends in your thoughts, and please be safe during your winter break travels.

Sincerely,

Steven Leath
Steven Leath
President