



Office of the President

John Carmichael, Ph.D.

Greetings Evergreen Community,

It has been just over three months since the tragic death of Jonathan Rodriguez. Our campus is still grieving.

Today, the Washington State Patrol issued a statement signifying the conclusion of their investigation into what happened on December 11, 2023. The State Patrol has outlined four main findings:

- The tankless hot water heater recently installed by a contractor in the mod housing unit was not installed properly;
- Detectors were sounding and should have been treated as a carbon monoxide event, rather than a faulty alarm system;
- Lack of training and understanding of the fire alarm system; and
- Evergreen protocols were insufficient.

We do not have the full investigation report yet. When we have the report in hand, we will spend the necessary time going through it line by line to better understand what happened.

The college will issue a press release shortly and we are expecting media attention. Marketing and Communications staff are responsible for handling all media inquiries. If you get contacted, please direct them to www.evergreen.edu/news-events/media-inquiries.

Updated community care resources and additional information can be found at www.evergreen.edu/campustragedy. The community-response@evergreen.edu email account is still active, and staff are actively monitoring the inbox. In addition, we have created this [Microsoft Form](#) where you can submit anonymous comments.

I recognize that many are still experiencing deep emotions and loss. The report's findings may stir up a new set of difficult feelings, so please care for one another.

Sincerely,

John Carmichael, President

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