East Carolina University was not included in a recent ranking of affordable colleges because it elected not to participate, according to officials.

Kiplinger, a publisher of business and financial advice based in Washington D.C., released a list of the 100 best values in public colleges as part of the February edition of its magazine. The list and an explanatory story are available online.

Officials at ECU did not respond to Kiplinger's request for information, said university spokesman John Durham.

“For the past five years or so, we've been concentrating more on improving our product and experience for students,” Durham said, adding that there are dozens of publications that rank universities, and to participate in all of them can be labor intensive.

Kiplinger's list is based on student-faculty ratios, admissions rates, four-year graduation rates and total cost of one year's attendance for in and out of state students both with and without financial aid.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earned the top spot and N.C. State made the 15th spot. UNC-Wilmington was ranked 27th and Appalachian State was ranked 35th.

“If you look at our data and compare it to the schools on the list, I think we do pretty well,” Durham said.

Retention and graduation rates at ECU are improving according to Durham.

“That's important to not only students and families but the whole state as well since so many of our graduates stay in North Carolina to contribute to the public good. We continue to produce huge numbers of teachers and health professionals.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
More need, less funding squeezes financial aid in UNC system

Updated: 6:35 p.m. yesterday

Thirteen campuses in the University of North Carolina system are seeking the maximum possible tuition increase to help offset state budget cuts, putting a larger strain on student financial aid programs.

Officials told the UNC Board of Governors on Thursday that a growing number of students are requesting financial aid because parents have lost jobs in recent months.

At the same time, some sources of aid money are drying up, officials said. For example, the balance in the state escheat fund – unclaimed property turned over to the State Treasurer's Office – dropped by 39 percent in the last four years.

The escheat fund provides more than $116 million a year for financial aid to students at North Carolina universities, which is about 70 percent of the UNC system's overall financial aid revenue. The State Treasurer's Office has projected that the fund won't be a reliable source of revenue for financial aid after 2013.

Last fall, Gov. Beverly Perdue instructed UNC officials to prepare for budget cuts of 5 to 10 percent. Former UNC President Erskine Bowles said that a 10 percent cut would amount to about $300 million and lead to larger classes and fewer instructors and class offerings.

In the past three years, the UNC system has dealt with $600 million in budget cuts, forcing campuses to lay off more than 900 people. All 16 of UNC's university campuses raised tuition last year to help offset the loss of state funding.
New UNC President Tom Ross said tuition will likely go up again this year so that the budget cuts don't harm the quality of education universities can offer.

"There may have to be some tuition increases," Ross said. "The key, I think, is to balance those increases with appropriate levels of financial aid that those students who can't afford to pay will be able to continue their education."

Under UNC system rules, tuition increases are capped at 6.5 percent a year, although campuses can also generate revenue by raising student fees. UNC-Chapel Hill, East Carolina University and Fayetteville State University are among the campuses seeking a maximum increase for the 2011-12 school year. North Carolina State University has requested a 6.2 percent increase, and North Carolina Central University is seeking a 5 percent increase.

"I feel like, every single year, it's tuition increases, tuition increases," said Abby Crownshaw, a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill. "We are working. We are studying. We are trying to do our best, but increasing tuition is not really helping."

The Board of Governors is expected to vote on the proposed increases in February.

Ross has said that he's prepared to tackle the budget problems and has urged state leaders to view education as an investment. He has stopped short of calling for a tax increase or bond to keep tuition costs down and has said he needs time to learn the system before setting his priorities.

The 17-campus system, which educates approximately 200,000 students, receives 13 percent of the state budget.

**Athletics panel proposed**

Ross said he plans to form a committee to study best practices when it comes to student athletes. The committee will be led by ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard, but other members haven't been named.
The panel is in response to problems with academic misconduct at various UNC schools.

Fourteen players on the UNC-Chapel Hill football team missed at least one game last fall because of allegations of improper relationships with sports agents or academic misconduct. ECU also reported academic misconduct to the NCAA, but the sport involved hasn't been named.
Letter: ECU responds to letter on sign
Friday, January 14, 2011

Editor's note: This letter was sent to Linda Morgan in response to her letter to the university published in the Public Forum on Monday. We print the following response in the interest of public information.

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the ECU sign at the intersection of Greenville and Charles boulevards. I want to address a couple of your comments with an assurance that I believe once the sign construction is completed it will be seen as an attractive addition to our campus. The brick structure, columns and fence have yet to be constructed around the sign and I agree that at the moment it appears out of place.

The sign has been moved forward about 30 feet from the original placement to align with the new architectural fence that will border the university property. The sign is, in fact, only slightly larger than the previous sign, growing from a screen size of 4'10” tall x 16’4” wide to 6’4” tall x 18’4” wide (about 1 foot in all directions), but is more energy efficient than the old sign.

Of course, this sign has more capabilities than the previous sign and we had an equipment component failure in the photocell control which caused so much brightness in the screen. We have corrected that problem and toned the brightness down significantly to reduce the glare. We also have the manufacturer doing some additional reprogramming to allow the aesthetics to be more pleasing.

The construction should be completed by the end of February (weather pending) and I hope you will agree at that time that it is an architecturally pleasing addition to our campus. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

WILLIAM E. BAGNELL
Associate Vice Chancellor
for Campus Operations
East Carolina University
The Durham organizer behind a new nonprofit plans to expand the availability of regulatory training outside the Raleigh-Durham area.

Julie Omohundro, who previously has held several offices with the N.C. Regulatory Affairs Forum, a professional association in the Research Triangle area, said there's a need for convenient educational and career development programs across the state. It's a gap she hopes the nonprofit can fill.

The focus will be on U.S. Food and Drug Administration rules and regulations. RegAffairsNC formed in June, with Omohundro as its interim executive director. In exchange for a membership fee, regulatory specialists can join and network with others involved in FDA-regulated industries and consulting services. It also will encompass similar international regulatory agencies.

The professional organization's bylaws state it will “provide affordable and accessible education programs on regulatory topics,” she said.

Most regulatory training is centered in the Research Triangle area, Omohundro said, requiring people elsewhere in the state to travel to attend, and making them feel isolated from activities.

“Outside the Triangle, there is nothing,” she said.

Training is essential to keep up with changes to regulations, said Omohundro, who earned her masters of business administration from N.C. Central University.

“So the main challenge is to keep up with current regulations.”

At East Carolina University's Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, Sue Ann Joyner, a regulatory specialist, said she joined the fledgling organization after attending an information session several months ago.

Joyner does regulatory work for clinical trials, and sees RegAffairsNC as a vehicle to help her network and meet others across the state in her line of work. “There are a lot of approvals and things that you can have to get before you can even enroll patients in a clinical trial for any type of drug,” she said. The nonprofit will broaden regional training opportunities “to kind of pull us all together,” Joyner said.
That's the plan, says Omohundro. “There's no vehicle by which to link all those people up,” she said. “It's just to provide a network so these people can communicate with each other.”

Members will indicate their area of expertise, and members will have access to that resource directory so they know who they can contact on a specific topic. In addition, a speaker's bureau is planned, where interested members can become trainers for other members.

An event is scheduled for April 8 at University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill Friday Center.

Omohundro said RegAffairsNC can help the state grow economically, by increasing the state's regulatory knowledge with more education. That knowledge could help bring industries like biotechnology to the state.

More information is available at the nonprofit's website at www.regaffairsnc.org. Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or (252) 329-9588.
OBITUARIES

Katie Corbett Johnson

CLINTON — Katie Corbett Johnson, 98, former educator, student of education and the Bible, and teacher of many, died on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

Born in Micro on Nov. 12, 1912, the daughter of H.J. and Lily Irene Corbett, she was taught and raised, after her mother’s death, by her stepmother, Nancy Smith Corbett.

She was a graduate of East Carolina Teacher's College, class of 1931 with a Senior Normal Degree in Elementary Education. She received her bachelor's degree in Primary Education grades one through seven with a minor in Public School Music from Atlantic Christian College in 1952.

She taught for four years at Chico School in Greenville and from 1935-1936 taught third grade in Princeton Elementary School, Princeton. She moved to Bethel in 1936 after her marriage on Christmas Eve, to her high school sweetheart, the Rev. Millard Marvin Johnson who was at the time the Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bethel. She taught for two years at the Bethel Elementary School and in 1942 taught at Mayo Elementary School, where her student was Edith Doughtie Warren, North Carolina State Legislator. After Katie Johnson’s husband became the Pastor of Rowan Baptist Church in Clinton in 1952, she taught at the College Street Elementary School from 1952-1978. Upon retirement, she became a regular substitute teacher from 1978 until 1990. Her teacher companions continued to bring her into their classrooms for reading presentations with their students until age 90.

She was the Piano and Hymn Sing Director for the Sampson County Adult Day Care for Seniors and a guide and hostess for the Clinton Historical Center. She served as: Women’s Missionary Union Associate, Baptist Women’s Leader of Mission Study, Adult Bible Study Leader, Music Director, Adult and Youth Choirs, Assistant Choir Director, Senior Department, Circle Chairwoman, Director of Young People Memory Work and Youth Leader at: First Baptist Church, Bethel, First Baptist Church, Spring Hope, Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Raleigh, Rowan Baptist Church, Clinton. In 1995 she received the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, Certificate of Special Recognition given by the Superintendent of Clinton City Schools to recognize the recipient of the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. In 1993, Sampson Community College Award for recognition for making an outstanding contribution to Basic Skills Education in Sampson County. April, 2003, the Clinton Area Foundation for Education (C.A.F.E.) established the Katie Corbett Johnson Endowment. Funds to be used for special projects at L.C. Kerr Elementary School.

At the age of 93, Katie was asked by The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at East Carolina University to be the guest speaker at the Chapter meeting for the Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter in Greenville. She has been a member of her chapter of this organization for 40 years. In 2007, at age 95, she served as a Grand Marshall in the East Carolina University Homecoming Parade which celebrated its 100th year of history. She was inducted into the ECU School of Education's Hall of Fame. On her 98th birthday, Katie was inducted into the state of North Carolina’s Order of the Long Leaf Pine by her former student Edith Warren. Mayor Lew Starling, a former student, presided over the celebration in the City Hall of her beloved city, Clinton.

Katie was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Millard Marvin Johnson; daughter, Kay Elizabeth Johnson Sewell; parents and sister, Louise Corbett Peacock of Kenly.

Survivors include daughters, Sue Johnson Little and husband, John Little, Ann Johnson Holland and husband, Terry Holland; grandchildren, Katie Holladay Baynard and husband, Steve Baynard, Ann-Michael Holland, John Burke Little and Sue Ann Little; two great-grandchildren, Holland Calloway Baynard and Harrison Corbett Baynard.

A graveside service for the family will be conducted Saturday morning, at Clinton City Cemetery. A memorial service will follow at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 408 College Street, Clinton. The family will receive friends following the service in the fellowship hall of the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions for the benefit of students may be made to C.A.F.E. for the Katie Johnson Endowment, Clinton City Schools, 606 College Street, Clinton, NC 28328.

Arrangements by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, Clinton.
Nina Simone, Percy Heath, John Coltrane, Max Roach and the late Billy Taylor are all regarded as jazz greats.

But did you know that they all hail from North Carolina?

Larry Turner sure does. And he can name many more that call North Carolina home. Turner founded the East Coast Jazz Revue, a nonprofit organization promoting jazz appreciation and education in North Carolina. The organization holds quarterly concerts. The East Coast Jazz Revue's winter concert, “A Jazz Holiday,” will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Turnage Theater in Washington, N.C.

“A Jazz Holiday” will feature legendary jazz drummer Roger Humphries and his quintet and international trumpet sensation Sean Jones.

“This is a concert commemorating the King holiday,” Turner said. “I think this is the first event at the Turnage Theater to commemorate the holiday. But ‘The Jazz Holiday' is more than that, it's a chance for renewal in this community.”

Turner's love of jazz began in his teens, and he saw how the genre brought people together.

“It was always interesting to see how the music crossed the divides of age, race, income, gender and geography,” he said.
Turner hopes that Saturday's concert will continue to bring people together. “This is a rare opportunity. We all need to participate and I hope we can move forward in that,” he said.

A tribute to Billy Taylor, who passed away Dec. 28, will be performed by Humphries and his quintet. “We also extended an invitation to the jazz department at ECU to give a tribute at the concert, too,” Turner said.

Carroll V. Dashiell Jr., artistic director of the Billy Taylor Jazz Festival and professor of bass at East Carolina University, will speak about Billy Taylor during the break. Humphries began playing the drums when he was 4 and had made it to Carnegie Hall by age 16.

As a teenager, he performed with the late Billy Taylor.

Turner said that Taylor had a performance to do at a Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., and had heard about the then-16-year-old Humphries. Taylor invited him to play at the concert.

“From that point on, Billy Taylor became a mentor to Roger Humphries,” Turner said. The theme of mentorship continues with Sean Jones, as he was mentored by Humphries. “He calls him Uncle Roger,” Turner said.

Turner had been trying to get in touch with Jones for about six months, to bring him to Washington to perform. When Turner mentioned this to Humphries, Humphries had a text message sent to Jones that said, “call your Uncle Roger.”

“Sean called right away,” Turner said.

In addition to the concert Saturday night, a free workshop will be held from 2-3:30 p.m., also at the Turnage Theater.

The workshop will be an informal performance by Humphries and his quintet and Jones. Students, jazz enthusiasts and anyone interested in learning about the music genre will be able to ask questions following the short performance.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to have a private demonstration and its open to anyone,” Turner said. “A closed Q-and-A session will allow students to interact with the musicians.”
UNC system could lose 2,000 jobs

BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL The UNC system may eliminate hundreds of jobs next year to help bridge the state's massive budget gap - and campus leaders say they don't expect vacant positions to cushion the blow.

Public universities have put plans together to deal with budget cuts of 5 percent and 10 percent for 2011-12, and data presented Thursday suggest large job losses.

A 10 percent cut could lead to 2,000 job cuts across the UNC system, including 1,000 faculty members, according to data discussed by the UNC system's Board of Governors. A 5 percent cut would eliminate 900 positions, including 400 faculty members. Systemwide, UNC has about 47,000 employees.

The cuts would help the state close a budget gap estimated now at more than $3.5 billion.

Budget cuts have become an annual exercise for the UNC system, which has taken more than $600 million in cuts over the past four years. But campus chancellors had long planned for cuts by holding positions open rather than filling them. Doing so has protected at least some workers from layoffs - until now.

"We have pretty much cleared out those vacant positions," said N.C. Central University Chancellor Charlie Nelms. "They're pretty much gone. Now we're talking about people."

The projected job losses aren't solid yet. The numbers are fluid, and no campus-by-campus data have yet been presented.
But officials say they expect budget cuts to hit the classroom far harder than they have to this point. Two years ago, then-UNC President Erskine Bowles ordered most of more than 900 job cuts to come from the administrative side of the ledger to protect the university's core academic mission.

A year ago, officials feared deep academic cuts before the legislature allowed campuses to increase tuition to help cover costs.

'A shift' is on the way
This year, cuts to administration won't do the job.

"We're now going to see a shift," said Jeff Davies, the UNC system's chief of staff. "Our administrative ranks are thin."

That makes sense to Nelms, the NCCU chancellor, who said he needs to preserve valuable support service positions on his campus.

"Not all critical positions are teaching positions," he said.

The effect on students would be evident when they try to register for classes. By eliminating hundreds of teaching positions, the UNC system also would lose thousands of course sections.

With a 5 percent cut, 2,750 course sections would be lost; with a 10 percent cut, that number would swell to 6,400, according to the data.

At N.C. State University, Chancellor Randy Woodson said difficult decisions will have to be made.

"Those are dramatic numbers," Woodson said. "We're going to have to protect our core strengths."

Rising college costs
This latest dose of sobering news came during a discussion of college costs, which are expected to rise again as campus leaders fret over the availability of financial aid.
Most public universities are requesting tuition and fee increases for next year. UNC-Chapel Hill, for example, hopes to raise its in-state undergraduate tuition and fees about $560, to $6,839.96. UNC-Charlotte has asked for a $781 tuition and fee increase, to $5,360.

The system's Board of Governors will vote on tuition and fees in February.

As the price of a college education rises, campus officials also say students may not get all the financial aid they need. At many campuses, more students are qualifying for need-based aid - and they need more of it. Aid officers generally cobble financial aid packages together by grouping federal, state and campus grants and loans, and universities vary widely in their ability to provide money to their students.

In fact, only UNC-Chapel Hill, with its Carolina Covenant program, can guarantee a debt-free aid package to needy students, said Julie Rice Mallette, NCSU's director of scholarships and financial aid.

"The sad reality is we just don't have enough money to meet the needs of all students," she said.

eric.ferreri@newsobserver.com or 919-932-2008

**Tuition requests**

Public universities are requesting tuition and fee increases for next year. A few examples:

- N.C. Central University: $360.50 increase to $4,719.92
- N.C. State University: $800.90 increase to $6,874.20
- UNC-Chapel Hill: $560.32 increase to $6,839.96
- UNC-Charlotte: $781 increase to $5,360

Note: All data would apply to in-state undergraduates
A hearing is expected today on a request to move from Pitt County the capital trial of 2009 double murder suspect.

Attorneys for defendant James Richardson, 33, are expected to argue that pretrial publicity will make it unreasonably difficult to find an impartial jury and protect Richardson's constitutional rights to a fair trial.

Richardson is accused in the June 30, 2009, drive-by shooting deaths of East Carolina University student Landon Blackley and restaurant manager Andrew Kirby outside The Other Place nightclub.

The shooting prompted increased security measures by city officials in the downtown club district. District Attorney Clark Everett is seeking the death penalty. The hearing was rescheduled from Jan. 7.

The motion by defense attorneys Thomas J. Moore of Rocky Mount and Jeff Cutler of Wendell says news coverage and the controversial nature of publicity about the arrest “have infected prospective jurors with preconceived impressions.”

Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Robb will present the prosecution's argument to keep the trial in Pitt County.

Last month Judge W. Russell Duke denied Richardson's request to lower his $5 million bond. The suspect is being held at Central Prison in Raleigh.
Housing hums around NCSU

BY DAVID BRACKEN - Staff Writer

After being delayed by the credit crunch for several years, an Alabama developer is on track to open a 10-story apartment building near N.C. State University in August of next year.

Capstone Development has begun grading and relocating utilities on the site, which is just south of Hillsborough Street between its intersections with Friendly Drive and Rosemary Street.

The $80 million to $85 million project, to be called the Stanhope Center, is one of several commercial projects in various stages of development along the Hillsborough Street corridor.

A mile and a half east is a 7-acre site that a Charlotte developer, FMW Real Estate, hopes to begin redeveloping this spring. And NCSU has begun searching for a developer to revitalize several parcels it owns across from the university's Bell Tower.

FMW is still lining up financing but expects to apply for site plan approval in the next few weeks, developer Jim Zanoni said.

"You have the government in downtown and you have N.C. State on Hillsborough Street," Zanoni said. "There just two very, very stable anchors."

The burst of activity along Hillsborough in an otherwise quiet market comes after the city spent $9.9 million renovating the street, including sprucing up the streetscape from Pullen Road to Gardner Street and adding two roundabouts.
Stanhope Center will include 277 multifamily units, a 787-space parking deck as well as a small amount of retail and office space.

Within walking distance of NCSU's campus, the apartments are expected to be a catalyst for further redevelopment along a stretch of Hillsborough that has changed little in recent years.

Capstone, which specializes in student housing, has secured financing through a preferred lender that the company declined to name.

The developer plans to shift ownership of the project to Provident Resources Group, a nonprofit that owns and operates housing for seniors and students. The move will allow Capstone to replace the project's construction loan with permanent financing using tax-exempt bonds, said Jeff Jones, an executive vice president with the company.

Raleigh officials approved the Stanhope Center in October 2008 after nearly a year of debate over its size and scope. Some nearby residents opposed the project, particularly the placement of the parking deck on the south side of Stanhope Avenue.

A month before it was approved, Ralph Recchie, N.C. State's director of real estate, got approval from the university's endowment to begin acquiring land across from the Bell Tower.

The goal was to assemble multiple parcels under a single owner in order to make them more attractive to developers. The university now owns a little less than two acres, including the so-called Bell Tower block situated between Maiden Lane and Enterprise Street.

Recchie said the university wants a mix of office, residential and retail but will let developers come up with the specifics.

"One of the goals has been to get people on the street," he said. Recchie said the university could lease the property or sell it outright. It expects to put out a request for proposals this spring and select a developer by as early as this fall.

By that time, FMW hopes to have begun the $40 million first phase of its project just to the east. It will include a five-story, 240-unit apartment
building, 32 town houses and 10,000 square feet of restaurant, retail and office space.

david.bracken@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4548
January 13, 2011
College’s Policy on Troubled Students Raises Questions

By A. G. SULZBERGER and TRIP GABRIEL

TUCSON — Many people had a glimpse of the deep delusions and festering anger of Jared L. Loughner, but none seemed in a better position to connect the dots than officials at Pima Community College.

After the release of detailed reports the college kept of Mr. Loughner’s bizarre outbursts and violent Internet fantasies, the focus has turned to whether it did all it could to prevent his apparent descent into explosive violence.

In September, Pima suspended Mr. Loughner and told him not to return without a psychologist’s letter certifying that he posed no danger. But it took no steps to mandate that he have a psychiatric evaluation, which in Arizona is easier than in many states.

Laura J. Waterman, the clinical director of the Southern Arizona Mental Health Corporation in Tucson, criticized Pima officials for not seeking an involuntary evaluation. “Where does it reach a level where you say this person shouldn’t be a part of any community and we have a responsibility to do something about that?” she said.

Dr. Waterman’s clinic, which offers walk-in psychiatric crisis care, is one of the agencies Pima refers students to when they need mental health services, including students who have been suspended like Mr. Loughner.

No record of Mr. Loughner’s seeking or receiving mental health care has surfaced.

“It is part of our practice to provide students with information of where they can go,” said Charlotte Fugett, an official at the college. “It’s their responsibility to find a practitioner.”
Pima, a low-cost commuter school with 68,400 students, is typical of community colleges in having no mental health center of its own. At residential colleges, the centers can make it easier to connect needy students to psychologists.

Paul Schwalbach, a college spokesman, said of Mr. Loughner, “His behavior, while clearly disturbing, was not a crime, and we dealt with it in a way that protected our students and our employees.”

Last year, Pima updated its policies for dealing with disturbed students, as did campuses across the country after several deadly shootings, including the killing of 32 at Virginia Tech.

The college created a team of senior officials to identify students who might pose a threat to themselves or others. They began meeting the same month that Mr. Loughner was suspended.

Paradoxically, suspending students like Mr. Loughner may push them over the edge by adding to their grievances and isolating them from people who could monitor them, said experts on campus violence.

Gene Deisinger, the director of threat management at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Va., speaking in general about the dismissal of a disruptive student, said, “We should never treat that as a panacea that increases our safety.”

When Virginia Tech removes a threatening student or staff member — as it does about a dozen times a year — the campus police or sometimes a psychologist now monitor the person’s progress when it is practical and merited, Dr. Deisinger said.

Marisa Randazzo, co-author of a sweeping 2002 federal study of school violence after the Columbine shootings, said most gunmen experienced a personal loss before their outbursts. If a school expels a threatening student, she said, “you are now adding to the person’s losses, even if you’re within your legal rights to do so.”

“At the same time, you’re losing your own ability to keep an eye on their behavior or have a positive effect,” she said.
Mr. Loughner, 22, who has been accused of killing 6 people and wounding 14, including Representative Gabrielle Giffords, at a Safeway store in Tucson on Saturday, did not return to his former campus or workplace for a shooting spree.

On the Northwest Campus where he took many of his classes from 2005-10, a group of students on break Wednesday debated how the college had handled him.

Moises Melgarejo, 18, said he wondered if the act of suspending Mr. Loughner had not left him precariously unrooted. “He wasn’t going to school, he wasn’t working, he was just sitting at home thinking whatever he was thinking,” he said.

Denise Hayes, president of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, said Pima had done what most colleges would in placing the responsibility to get a mental health exam on the student, especially since, as the college says, it also delivered the ultimatum to Mr. Loughner’s parents, with whom he lived.

The nationwide adoption of campus threat teams like Pima’s — which typically meet once a week on large campuses, often below the radar of students — has been rapid since investigations of the Virginia Tech massacre showed that many people and departments had clear signs of the instability of the gunman, Seung Hui Cho, but no one connected the information.

Virginia and Illinois passed laws requiring colleges and universities to establish multidisciplinary threat-evaluation teams. Today, more than half of the country’s 4,500 colleges and universities “acknowledge the need and have formed some capacity” to assess student threats, said Steven Healy, a former Princeton University police chief, who leads training programs in threat assessment under a grant from the Justice Department. On Tuesday, he was leading a workshop for 70 educators in Phoenix, which he began with a moment of silence.

At Virginia Tech, the Threat Assessment Team — a national model, whose members include the dean of students; the director of counseling; a university lawyer; and Dr. Deisinger, a psychologist who also holds the title of deputy police chief — meets weekly, discussing 6 to 20 cases.
A campus Web site about the team answers a hypothetical question, “Can’t you just make people leave campus if they are a problem?” in this way: “When people remain part of the Virginia Tech community, on-campus resources are available to them, and campus administrators are in contact with them to provide support they might not have if they were removed.”

In Arizona, people can be sent involuntarily for a mental health exam after any concerned party applies for a court-ordered evaluation, which can lead to mandated treatment.

Stella Bay, the police chief for Pima, said the college could initiate an involuntary evaluation only if a student posed “an imminent danger.”

But that assertion seemed to reflect a misunderstanding of the state’s laws regarding involuntary evaluations. Dr. Waterman, of the Southern Arizona Mental Health Corporation, said a mandated evaluation required only some evidence of danger. “It’s a broader standard,” she said. “And it costs nothing to make a phone call and talk about it and consult with a professional.”

Since the weekend shootings, the number of petitions for mandated exams at Dr. Waterman’s clinic has increased, she said, presumably because of wide awareness of the issue now. In fact, Ms. Bay called in a case on Monday about a Pima student, Dr. Waterman said. The police brought the student right to a hospital to be evaluated.

A. G. Sulzberger reported from Tucson, and Trip Gabriel from New York.
College Test: Odd or Dangerous?

Disruptive or Even Unsettling Student Behavior Often Isn’t Alarming Enough to Notify the Police

By Daniel Gilbert
And Shirley S. Wang

TUCSON, Ariz.—Jared Lee Loughner’s increasingly volatile behavior was documented by classmates and administrators at the community college he attended. He had had run-ins with law enforcement, and there were examples of violent musings attributed to him in online forums.

But none of it was enough to spur anyone to take action that might have prevented Mr. Loughner from buying a gun or, as police allege, shooting 20 people in a supermarket parking lot Saturday, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Mr. Loughner’s situation highlights the difficulty of ferreting out dangerous individuals from the simply odd, and how behavior that might be disruptive or even unsettling in an educational setting still might not be alarming enough to notify law enforcement.

There are no laws that require colleges to disclose concerns about potentially dangerous students to off-campus authorities, apart from mental-health professionals who must alert law enforcement if a threat to an identifiable victim is imminent. Moreover, it is nearly impossible to predict whether any given individual is going to become violent, psychiatrists say.

“We will never be able to anticipate all acts of violence and perhaps not even most acts of violence,” said Paul Appelbaum, a professor of psychiatry, medicine and law at Columbia University.

There is no evidence that Mr. Loughner had been diagnosed with a mental illness, and it isn’t clear whether he ever received psychiatric treatment. Neal Cash, who heads an organization that oversees federally funded mental-health services in the region, said Mr. Loughner didn’t receive treatment through the program. He may have received private counseling, though.

At Pima Community College, where many people witnessed erratic behavior by Mr. Loughner, classroom outbursts—while disturbing his instructors and classmates—apparently didn’t amount to specific threats.

“He was a disruptive and an odd, strange sort of character,” said Paul Schwabach, a college spokesman. “He wasn’t dangerous.”

In a series of postings in an online gaming forum last year, Mr. Loughner wrote of feelings of aggression, said college women enjoyed being raped and spouted conspiracy theories, leaving some gamers who read them wondering whether he had a mental disability.

But even so, the majority of people with severe mental illness won’t become violent, said Jeffrey Swanson, a professor at Duke University who has conducted studies on schizophrenia and violence.

Ben McGahee, who taught Mr. Loughner in an introductory algebra class at Pima college last June, said he initially wasn’t sure what to make of his student’s provocations. When Mr. Loughner blurted out a blatantly wrong answer, and when he asked if the class was a “scam,” the instructor wondered if it was an attempt at humor.

One morning before class, Mr. McGahee said, Mr. Loughner approached him and pointed to a copy of the U.S. Constitution on the wall, saying the teacher was violating his First Amendment rights. By that point, Mr. McGahee had grown worried when he turned his back to Mr. Loughner.

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He called a dean, who along with a counselor and a campus police officer removed Mr. Loughner from his class for good, according to Messrs. McGhee and Schwalbach.

Mr. Loughner also had five run-ins with campus police between February and September 2010, according to the college. Pima officials wouldn’t say whether there were other such incidents during Mr. Loughner’s five years there.

What schools do when they have a concern about students varies. There is no consensus on how much help to offer before getting rid of a student, according to Ira Burnim, legal director of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, D.C. Schools are often concerned about liability and want to eliminate the problem by suspending or expelling a disruptive student.

On Sept. 29, Pima Community College suspended Mr. Loughner and barred him from campus after officials became aware of a rambling video he had posted on YouTube, calling the school illegal. After a meeting in which Mr. Loughner indicated he would withdraw from the school, officials sent him a letter stating that he would need an opinion from a mental-health professional that he “does not present a danger to himself or others” before he could return.

Mr. Schwalbach said outbursts by Mr. Loughner in classrooms and libraries didn’t indicate a mental-health problem or other concerns that would lead administrators to notify outside authorities. In a written statement to The Wall Street Journal, the college said that it may notify external law-enforcement authorities when a violation of its code of conduct “is also a violation of state or federal law.”

Experts say that from the publicly known facts to date about Mr. Loughner’s behavior, Pima Community College acted in line with what many peer institutions would do.

Schools often try to determine if a troublesome student has mental-health issues and may ask a student to get evaluated before being allowed back, as Pima did, said Victor Schwartz, a psychiatrist and dean of students at Yeshiva University in New York.

— Tammy Audi, Alexandra Berzon and Charles Forelle contributed to this article.