

ECU NOTES: Expert on school violence to discuss strategies for safety

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David Vodila, an educator and expert on school violence, will discuss strategies to keep schools safe at 3 p.m. Wednesday in Mendenhall Student Center, Room 14. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Vodila is principal of Red Lion Area Senior High School in Red Lion, Pa. Last year, his friend and co-worker, Eugene P. Segro, former principal of the Red Lion Area Junior High School, was shot and killed by an eighth-grader who then shot and killed himself.

Since then, Vodila has been an integral part of the statewide emergency response team initiated by the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals to help schools cope with tragedy. Pennsylvania is only the second state, along with California, to form such a group.

Vodila says violence takes on many forms and can include gang activity, locker thefts, bullying and intimidation, gun use and assault. He said the issue must be addressed in conjunction with efforts to improve the quality of American education.

Regardless of how good the teachers or curriculum are, violence makes it difficult for students to learn, he said.

Also, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Vodila will speak to the ECU Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) at Brook Valley Country Club. Tickets for this event are \$15 and include dinner and gratuity.

For more information, contact Bill Grobe at (252) 328-6499 or grobew@mail.ecu.edu.