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For Immediate Release

## **Virginia Tech Student Wounded During Gun Massacre, Joins Advocates At Northern Illinois University's Naperville Campus For Public Forum On Gun Violence**

As One-Year Anniversary Of Virginia Tech Massacre Approaches On April 16<sup>th</sup>, and Two Months After Northern Illinois University Shooting, Statewide Coalition Hosts Community Event to Tackle Gun Violence

**When:** Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 7:00 P.M.

**Where:** **Northern Illinois University, Naperville Campus, Conference Room 101C**  
1120 East Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563-9347  
(Located 0.8 mile west of Naper Blvd, south side of street)

**What:** The Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (ICPGV) is sponsoring a free community forum open to the general public: **“Gun Violence: What Can The Public Do To Prevent It?”** The discussion will focus on what role community residents can play in helping to reduce gun violence, and state legislation currently addressing the issue.

**Who:** Garrett Evans, a Virginia Tech student shot and wounded during April 16<sup>th</sup> massacre  
Stephen Young, gun violence survivor, and interfaith coordinator for ICPGV  
Nina Vinik, legal director, Legal Community Against Violence

Invited guests include law enforcement officials, clergy, NIU students, gun violence survivors, community leaders, and gun violence prevention advocates.

### **Recent High-Profile Incidents of Gun Violence:**

- On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in Blacksburg, Virginia, a student at Virginia Tech, Seung-Hui Cho, used two handguns and multiple high-capacity ammunition magazines to kill 32 students and professors and wounded 17 others before killing himself. It was the worst school shooting in the nation's history.
- On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at Northern Illinois University a former student, Steven Kazmierczak, used a shotgun along with two handguns to kill 5 students and wound 16 others before killing himself at Cole Hall.
- During this **current 2007 - 2008 school year, 20 Chicago Public Schools students** have been killed by gun violence. The prior school year, **from 2006 – 2007, gunfire killed 26 CPS students.**

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