

◆ Walkout ◆ at Alfred University part of national protest of gun violence

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Students, faculty and staff gather Wednesday as part of a 'walkout' protesting gun violence.

ALFRED, NY Well over 100 Alfred University students, faculty and staff interrupted their schedules Wednesday morning to take part in a “walkout” protest against gun violence.

The group from Alfred University joined with students from schools, colleges and universities across the nation who walked out of their classes at 10 a.m. The walkout was a show of solidarity in the wake of the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, which left 17 dead.

Wednesday’s walkout at AU was organized by Art Force 5, a student group that uses art as a way to bring issues of social justice to the public eye. The event was held under the leadership of Art Force 5 president Kelsey Oliveira, a senior from Valley Stream, NY.

AU students, faculty and staff left their scheduled classes and activities and walked to Davis Memorial Carillon, where a bell was rung 17 times, once for each victim. As the bell was rung, participants raised placards with the name and photo of a victim.

Afterward, students were invited to write a response to the hashtag #armmewith, indicating what they feel could be used in schools to protect students against violence. The AU Career Development Center organized a voter registration drive in conjunction with Wednesday’s event.

Organizers also invited students to sign up for a bus trip to Washington, D.C., March 24, for the “March For Our Lives” protest against gun violence. Alfred University trustee Gene Bernstein &69 and his wife, Kathy, have provided funding to underwrite the bus trip.