

Dear Mr. Pinkston,

I wanted to write you today to express my sincere apology to Ms. Kesha Caldwell at Chattanooga State. I fully accept responsibility for my actions and I feel terribly that I put Ms. Caldwell in a position where she thought that my statements could be a threat. I never intended my words to threaten her and I can see from what has transpired that they may have and for that I am sorry.

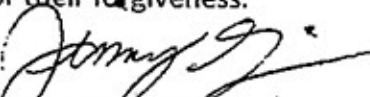
The power of words should never be taken lightly. During this situation, this has never been clearer to me. The toll my flippant comments have taken on my family, friends, employers, and me has been great.

I also recognize the incredible inconvenience my words have caused the local authorities, who admirably followed their call to duty, as well Southern Adventist University and the professionals at Chattanooga State University.

Kesha Caldwell was incredibly helpful throughout the entire process of helping me continue my education. I deeply regret that my choice of words put her into an uncomfortable situation. It is easy for me to understand that comments such as the one I made, regardless of context, cannot be taken lightly today.

Though it should go without saying, I recognize now how utterly important it is for me to choose my words sensitively and carefully. To all whom were affected (SAU, Chatt. State, Local Law Enforcement), I offer my sincerest and deepest apologies. This mistake will never happen again.

Thank you for your compassion and I ask Ms. Kesha Caldwell and others that I inconvenienced for their forgiveness.



James Michael Gaines