



# Rhodes College

## Rhodes Community,

I am writing to share an update on the Campus Safety Task Force, which has now concluded its work. I want to begin by thanking the students, faculty, and staff who served on the task force for their incredibly thoughtful and dedicated participation during our many meetings over the course of this academic year. You can be assured they did a beautiful job representing many different perspectives and bringing forth a wide variety of ideas as we considered how to enhance safety on our campus and in our surrounding communities.

You will find links to three different documents in this email. The first is a document summarizing the results of our campus safety survey, which you can review [at this link](#). A total of 643 of you took the time to fill this out and provide very helpful suggestions and comments, and the entire Task Force thanks those of you who participated. We were heartened to learn that the overwhelming majority of you feel quite safe on our campus, although the sense of safety decreases to some extent on West Campus. You will see that the Campus Safety Measures working group addresses that disparity in its recommendations with some concrete suggestions for increasing the vibrancy, lighting, and campus safety officer presence on West Campus. You can find the complete set of recommendations from the Campus Safety Measures working group [at this link](#). The Community Partnerships working group has also made a number of recommendations that you can find [at this link](#). It is very important to Rhodes that we be a good partner for our neighbors, and the group has offered very thoughtful suggestions about how we can develop deeper relationships with the neighborhoods that surround us.

The most difficult issue confronting the Task Force was whether we should move to having some armed and sworn officers on campus. The Task Force decided not to recommend the addition of armed officers on campus at this time, although we will, of course, continually reevaluate that question and all issues of campus safety as conditions evolve. The only time an armed officer would ever be the first choice for responding to an on-campus situation would be in the event of an active shooter, and our relationship with the Memphis Police Department and ongoing active shooter training exercises with them means that the MPD would be able to respond to any such event on campus extremely quickly. We also have an armed Clarion patrol vehicle patrolling the perimeter of campus, and we think that the combination of that outside armed patrol with our current campus safety officers strikes the right balance.

The work of the Campus Safety Task Force will now transition into a permanent Campus Safety Advisory Board that will implement the various recommendations of the Task Force and serve as an ongoing partner with our dedicated campus safety team to share community feedback and ideas. We will be following up with a call for individuals who are interested in serving on this Board.

Keeping the members of our community as safe as possible, in a world where we tragically cannot guarantee that a simple trip to a shopping mall, movie theater, concert, elementary school, or place of worship will always be safe, continues to be our very top priority. We will, of course, continually assess our campus safety operations and add new technologies to enhance safety as they evolve and conditions warrant.

Thank you again to the members of the Campus Safety Task Force for their diligent service, and I look forward to the very good work to come from the new Campus Safety Advisory Board.

**Jennifer M. Collins**  
President

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