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Rhodes Community,

We are excited to welcome students, faculty, and staff back for the spring semester! I hope each of you had a joyful and restorative winter break, and that the new year will be full of happiness and good health for you and your families.

I am sorry to begin my January newsletter with some sad news – beloved basketball coach Herb Hilgeman passed away over the weekend after a long illness. Coach Hilgeman served our community for 34 years. During his tenure, Coach Hilgeman coached 833 Lynx Men's Basketball games, winning 473, earning him the distinction of becoming the College's all-time leader in wins for basketball. Coach Hilgeman led many of the most successful teams in Lynx history – regardless of the sport - and those successes are signified by the banners hanging on the walls of Mallory. More important than the wins and titles he amassed at Rhodes was his lasting impact on hundreds of student-athletes. A person of impeccable integrity and class, Coach Hilgeman taught as many lessons off the court as he did on the court, leading to lifelong relationships with many of his former players. We are so grateful that we were able to dedicate the Hilgeman basketball court in his honor before his passing, at a beautiful dedication ceremony attended by Coach Hilgeman, his family, and dozens of former athletes. Please keep Coach and

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I want to welcome Dr. Tim Huebner to his new role as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Tim has been a valued member of the Rhodes community for almost 30 years and has a deep love for Rhodes, and we are thrilled to be working with him in this new capacity.

I want to remind our students that I have set aside office hours to meet with them this semester. I will be available to meet with students individually or in small groups. I love to hear from students to discuss their career goals or to hear their thoughts about events happening on campus.

This is the time of year when we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A number of activities are planned next week to celebrate and honor Dr. King. I hope you will take the time to attend some of these events or perform an act of service in his honor. You can find a full calendar of events [here](#).

I'm very pleased to announce that Rhodes has been invited to join the [American Talent Initiative \(ATI\)](#), a collective of 137 top public and private colleges and universities across the nation devoted to expanding access and opportunity for low- and moderate-income students. [ATI institutions](#) include regional and flagship public institutions, the entire Ivy League, and other leading private liberal arts colleges. This diverse group represents 32 states, eight Carnegie Classes, and a wide range of institution sizes. Due to the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies through its partnership with the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, there is no cost to join ATI and access its extensive network and resources. I look forward to engaging with other invited colleges and universities to advance the Rhodes mission.

Our men's and women's basketball teams competed in the prestigious d3hoops.com tournament in Las Vegas over the winter break. Congratulations to Avery Marsh '26 and Phil Dotson '26 who were named first-team all-tournament. Conference play has begun for both teams. I hope you will come out and support them and our other Lynx student-

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Thank you so much for being part of the Rhodes community. We look forward to a busy and engaging spring semester.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Collins

President

Rhodes College

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