

Dear Rhodes Community,

Today I write to share that after 28 years of devoted service to the College, Mel Richey has decided to retire from Rhodes effective July 29. I very much wish that she would stay with us longer, but I certainly understand her desire to enjoy a truly well-deserved retirement. I am profoundly grateful that when Mel initially told me that she wanted to retire effective May 31, she very graciously agreed to stay on longer to assist in my transition. Her wise counsel and support have been invaluable.

After working on the Hill in DC, Mel began her career in higher education in 1983 at the University of South Carolina where she worked for many years in Student Affairs. She joined our community in 1994 as the Associate Dean of Students and was named Dean of Students in that same year. In this role she was known for her calm and frank demeanor and her absolute dedication to the students and their personal growth and development. In 2000, President Troutt invited her to serve as Executive Assistant to the President, a position she has held for the past 22 years. In this role she has worked with numerous faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, and community leaders on all aspects of Rhodes with the ultimate goal of advancing this great college. Mel has an unwavering willingness to tackle difficult issues head-on and work to get them resolved without drawing attention to herself.

During her time at Rhodes, she has worked with multiple strategic plans and campus master plans, helped plan 23 commencements, witnessed over 7500 students graduate, and worked with five Presidents. Mel will be remembered and missed for many things. She is the problem solver, the confidante, the historian, the strategist, the project partner, the helping hand, the advisor, and the cheerleader.

In my short time as President I have witnessed the many hats she wears and the significant role she has played at Rhodes. Mel has touched many people, left an indelible mark on Rhodes, and will be greatly missed. I hope you will take time to join me in thanking her for her remarkable legacy of service to Rhodes.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Collins

President
Rhodes College

Rhodes College | 2000 North Parkway | Memphis, TN 38112
800.844.5969 | 901.843.3000

View this email [online](#).

2000 N. Parkway
Memphis, TN | 38112 United States

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