



Dear Kim,

Challenge has taken on new meaning within the last few weeks along with innovation, agility and collaboration. Responding quickly and comprehensively in the first few weeks and now to Ohio's Stay at Home Order, Rhodes State faculty and staff have come together like never before! Our first priority has been and will continue to be the safety, health and well-being of all of our students, faculty, staff, College partners and communities. This will remain constant in every decision the College makes as we progress through this global crisis.

Second, only to everyone's safety, health, and well-being, is the priority of the educational process for our students. To safeguard the educational process, our faculty – along with our staff from Information Services and the Center for Distance and Innovative Learning – prepared to launch all courses online within a three-day period. By March 16, all courses were being delivered online. Much is being transformed in an effort to meet our continuing students' needs for learning and support.

We are redesigning processes to be more student-centered and developing online group orientations for new students as well as a virtual tour of campus. We are advising students face-to-face on Zoom, and faculty are using this interface to teach along with other platforms to maintain social interactions with students. Faculty are recording content to offer labs online or are using new software designed for online lab instruction. It is an interesting and innovative landscape. But, when we get through this, we will be the better for it. We are transforming into a more technologically driven environment that is preparing us for now and the future, providing a dynamic continuity plan for any crisis that may arise.

During this time, thousands of Rhodes State and LTC alumni are on the front lines serving our communities in Northwest Ohio. Nurses, respiratory therapists, first responders and so many other allied health care alumni are in need of our encouragement and appreciation for the heroes they are. While the need for excellent health care is important at all times, it is paramount now. Also, our countless alumni in law enforcement, social services, and business and industry are being called upon to respond with unwavering spirit and energy. In the College's nearly 50-year history, never has its importance of educating our regional workforce been more apparent or needed.

We encourage you to keep up-to-date with Rhodes State through area media, social media and the College's [COVID-19 updates](#) on www.rhodesstate.edu. Additionally, the College Board of Trustees will continue to meet in a remote format. These meetings will be streamed live, and we will engage the media to keep you informed.

Through all of this, our mission – Rhodes State College changes lives, builds futures and improves communities through life-long learning – stays Rhodes Strong. It speaks to the relevance of this institution and the importance of our communities to the College. You are a part of this relevance. We thank you for all you have done to support Rhodes State College and all we will continue to do together.

Stay safe! Wishing you the best for your families, businesses and industries. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia E. Spiers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a distinct 'E'.

Cynthia E. Spiers, PhD
President, Rhodes State College

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