



### **Welcome to the first day of class!**

It is such a joy to have our students back on campus, and thank you to everyone who contributed to making Welcome Week such a wonderful experience for our first-year students. I am truly honored to have joined this incredible community, and I am so grateful for the conversations I have had over the past seven weeks with so many of you to learn more about what you do and your hopes and dreams for Rhodes' future.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks and months as we work together to recruit talented students to Rhodes, enhance the student experience, support our outstanding faculty and staff, and raise the college's national profile. One way I hope to enhance our collaboration and transparency is by sharing a monthly newsletter with you throughout the academic year, and here is the first edition. I will also be sending a similar version each month to our parent and alumni communities.

Last week we welcomed an exceptional class. Of our incoming class of 486 students, 94 percent have a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher, with 54 percent ranking in the top 10 percent of their class. They come from 40 states, plus the District of Columbia and 13 other countries. Fifteen percent are first-generation students, and 31 percent will represent Rhodes on the athletic fields and courts. Thirty-six percent of all incoming students, including international students, are students of color, with 33 percent of all domestic students being students of color.

As we begin a new academic year, I want to share with you a few amazing stories about Rhodes that transpired over the summer.

### **Rankings**

In recent weeks, we have been pleased to learn Rhodes has once again received high rankings from a number of distinguished publications and rankings organizations. These include: [Learn more about](#)

