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Community values emerge as essential element

By Cara Latham

The Statement of Community Values (SCV) is becoming a more prominent manuscript to the University, according to Larry Johnson, the Associate Dean of Students.

The document has been emphasized more often in all aspects of the community lately, and according to Johnson, it's going to get even more recognition.

This year it was recited by the entire freshman class during orientation.

“IT's emerging as a very important document,” said Johnson. “I think we, as community members, need to start paying attention to it.”

University President Dr. Mordechai Rozanski has mentioned it in his convocation speech and it has been referred to in the last three commencement ceremonies. Also, the Office of Community Standards changed its name from Judicial Affairs in light of the statement.

According to Johnson, the SCV was being referred to the classes around both campuses and it was read for the opening of Unity Day, on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

“We are anticipating a video that will assist us in fully examining how the community values play into our lives.”

He said that it is not only directed toward students, but also toward all members of Rider University. Offices are asked to refer to it when interacting with students and with staff themselves, according to Johnson.

“I use it myself in my syllabus for class,” Johnson said. “It’s there when you need to remind us of what being members of the Rider community is all about.”

Johnson said that a major part of its emphasis is implemented in the freshman seminars. What freshman will learn from the SCV and, of course, the sections relating to ethics and academic integrity.

“The freshmen had to go through a two-hour workshop during orientation just discussing the community values statement, and that was their introduction,” he said. “They are formally indoctrinated into the Rider community during their first class in the Cavalla Room and read it with Haley Baum, the Student Government Association (SGA) president.”

The SCV is the philosophy behind the lecture series that focuses on leadership, ethics and social responsibility, which is taking place on Thursday, Oct. 14, with Dr. Hendrie Weisinger, the guest speaker.

The mother of Matthew Weisinger, the guest speaker.

“The movie “The Laramie Project,” which will now examine the SCV began in the fall of 2002, when the President at the time, Bert Luedeke, directed that a “ campus creed” be developed, which was to bring Rider “in sync” with what other institutions do.

In our endeavor to make Rider University a just community, we commit ourselves, as caring individuals, to the following principles:

- That our rigorous intellectual life nourishes our minds and spirits;
- That no person walks these halls as a stranger;
- That integrity of word and deed forms the foundation of all relationships;
- That we recognize that real leadership is derived from service to others;
- That we celebrate our differences for they are our strength;
- That we are proud of this special place, entrusted to us by past generations, nurtured by us for future ones;
- That we share not one Truth, but respect our common search for understanding;
- And through the time we spend here, we are forever joined to each other and to Rider University;

Rider University Statement of Community Values

In our endeavor to make Rider University a just community, we commit ourselves, as caring individuals, to the following principles: