## **Executive Summary**

## **Blueprint for Academic Excellence**

Rhodos Fellows AY2020-2021

### **Highlights**

This was the first year of the Rhodos Fellows Living Learning Community for Information, Design, and Computing, giving us the rare opportunity to begin an exciting program from scratch. With our founding team (Faculty Principal Simon Tarr, Assistant Principal Amelia Quint, and Business Manager Coy Gibson), we opened with over 280 first-year students from over 40 majors, increasing in AY 2019-20 to 398 students in over 50 majors.

We started AY 2018-19 with over 100 programs and events to encourage Rhodos students on pathways to digital leadership, including guest presentations from national leaders, linked courses, a tutoring program, new partnerships on and off campus, and an exclusive makerspace within the hall.

### **Mission Statement**

The Rhodos Fellows program is a next-generation living learning community for students interested in professional pathways related to information, design and computing. Rhodos welcomes every student with the curiosity and desire to be a maker—someone who creates something new in the world. Students come together to participate in interdisciplinary projects and events, connect with faculty and national leaders, and use the Rhodos Makerspace to bring creative technology innovations to reality.

### **Vision Statement**

Rhodos will be the home for creative students from every discipline who want to design an exciting and fulfilling life path in an information-rich world.

### **Values Statement**

We are at our best when we are curious about our world, unorthodox in our approach, generous with our ideas, mindful of our presence, and pioneering in our plans.

## **Table Of Contents**

Executive Summary		 1
Highlights		 1
Mission Statement	. <b></b>	 1
Vision Statement		 1
Values Statement		
Goals - Looking Back		
Goals - Real Time		
Goals - Looking Ahead		
Programs or Initiatives		
Effective Programs or Initiatives		
Program Launches		
Program Rankings		
Initiatives and Fees		
initiatives		
Fees		
Community Engagement		
Community Perceptions		
Collaborations		
Internal Collaborations		
External Collaborations		
Campus Climate and Inclusion		
Campus Climate and Inclusion	. <b></b>	 21
Concluding Remarks		 22
Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement	. <b></b>	 22
Key Issues	. <b></b>	 23
Quantitative Outcomes	. <b></b>	 23
Cool Stuff		 24

Goals for the previous Academic Year.

### **Goal 1 - Connect to Faculty Principal**

**Goal Statement** Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by

encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal.

**Linkage to** • Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow

Spurring Knowledge and Creation

• Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities

Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values

**University Goal** 

#### Goal 2 - Support academic attainment

**Goal Statement** Provide supportive living and learning environments that

promote academic attainment of resident students.

Linkage to University Goal Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow

Spurring Knowledge and Creation

Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities

Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values The Rhodos Fellows fosters an environment of original research and creative activity, high academic performance, and

collaborative learning.

**Status** Newly Established Goal

**Action Plan** 

#### **Goal 3 - Connect students to University and community resources**

#### **Goal Statement**

Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities both as part of the living learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the university.

### Linkage to University Goal

- Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
- Spurring Knowledge and Creation
- Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities

Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values Rhodos Fellows program connects and develops residents through strategic partnerships within and outside of the University community, positioning students to gain competitive, unique academic and professional experiences in information, design, and computing.

**Status** 

Newly Established Goal

**Action Plan** 

#### Goal 4 - Promote academic and professional pathways in information, design, and

#### computing.

**Goal Statement** 

Provide interdisciplinary opportunities for students to pursue academic and professional pathways related to information, design and computing.

Linkage to University Goal

- · Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
- Spurring Knowledge and Creation
- Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities

Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values The Rhodos Fellows program fosters experiential learning, cultivates internship and career insights, and creates co-curricular opportunities for students in information, design, and computing fields.

**Status** 

Newly Established Goal

**Action Plan** 

Goals for the current Academic Year.

### **Goal 1 - Connect to Faculty Principal**

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by
	encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Close connection with a faculty member is a high-impact practice of a faculty-led living learning community. As Faculty Principal, Dr. Tarr guides and communicates the mission and vision of the Rhodos Fellows program through direct interaction with residents in programs that he personally leads as well as through events and interactions he participates in, supporting community members' pursuits in information, design, and computing.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain current and develop new programs and initiatives which have had successful impact.
Achievements	[From Nov 1, 2018 through Oct 31, 2019) Along with regular open office hours, in AY 19-20 Dr. Tarr began conducting individual Rhodos Fellow consultations (over 40 so far). Weekly Café Rhodos interaction event with Dr. Tarr increased attendance to 10-20/week. Instituted new summer orientation consultations with 106 incoming students.  Dr. Tarr leads regular & special events, including Secret Tools series (3-8 attendees each)  Dr. Tarr participated actively in programs he did not lead, continuing the Monthly Make series (7-10 students each), multiple visiting guest events (5-10 attendees each), and larger events such as the Last Day Luau (120 attendees), 2019 Rhodos Opening Ceremony (55 attendees), 2019 Rhodos Rally (196 attendees), and 2019 Halloween Bash & prosthetic makeup workshop ( (57 attendees).  Dr. Tarr teaches linked courses (MART 210, UNIV 101), collaborated with linked entrepreneurship COLA 298, and visits all other linked courses.  Dr. Tarr leads social media interactions, fielding questions and responding to new students.

Resources Utilized	Time and effort from Rhodos team for new and recurring content creation. Budget for equipment and program materials. Budget for food/refreshments.
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Continuing in future.
Goal Upcoming Plans	Increase individual consultations in Rhodos Makerspace. Now that Makerspace is complete, conduct more experiential workshops to encourage independent projects. Increase undergraduate research mentorship through fellowships, grant programs, and independent projects. Continue to teach Rhodos linked classes, as well as remain connected to other linked classes. Continue effective programs and repeat flagship events. Increase faculty principal voice and presence in and through social media.
Resources Needed	Continuing current budget.
Goal Notes	This "Real Time" section covers the period beginning in the Rhodos Fellows program's first semester November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019, into the program's second year.  The Rhodos Makerspace, which serves as the central hub of programming for information, design, and computing, began construction in May 2019, and was not fully completed until October 26, 2019.

## **Goal 2 - Support academic attainment**

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to	Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
University Goal	<ul> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The Rhodos Fellows fosters an environment of original research and creative activity, high academic performance, and collaborative learning.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain current and develop new linked courses, tutoring sessions. Expand and further integrate linked courses. Add additional UNIV 101 sections. Expand peer tutoring sessions.
Achievements	Dr. Tarr taught a linked media arts course (MART 210), collaborated with our linked entrepreneurship course (COLA 298), and visited all other linked courses.
	11% of students in Dr. Tarr's FA18 linked class attended tutoring programs, and students who attended tutoring sessions saw their D/F/W rate drop to only 3%. (The non-tutored rate is 18%.)
	Weekly Café Rhodos continues to flourish as an informal collaboration time for students (particularly computer science) to practice and work on homework problems.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Continuing in future.
Goal Upcoming Plans	Continue all current activities. Expand and further integrate linked courses. Add additional UNIV 101 sections. Expand peer tutoring sessions. Expand undergraduate research connections.
Resources Needed	Collaboration with residential curricular initiatives, Student Success Center and UNIV 101. Collaboration with study abroad office. Allocate internal budget for grants for undergraduate research.
Goal Notes	This "Real Time" section covers the period beginning in the Rhodos Fellows program's first semester November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019, into the program's second year.
	The Rhodos Makerspace, which serves as the central hub of programming for information, design, and computing, began construction in May 2019, and was not fully completed until October 26, 2019.

## **Goal 3 - Connect students to University and community resources**

Goal Statement	Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities
	both as part of the living learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the university.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Rhodos Fellows program connects and develops residents through strategic partnerships within and outside of the University community, positioning students to gain competitive, unique academic and professional experiences in information, design, and computing.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain current and develop new partnerships across campus and within the wider community that have had a positive impact. Prepare returning students to be mentors for the Rhodos incoming class through leadership roles in our student organizations.
Achievements	Continued internship pathways through the Center for Digital Humanities for students to partake in challenging professional development early in their academic career. Employed and trained 8 Rhodos Fellows as Makers Staff beginning in FA19 to lead in the new Makerspace.
	Began collaborating with Housing staff to develop events that serve our shared community and model the creative collaboration that defines Rhodos. Continued development of Rhodos student groups to strengthen bonds within our community around shared affinities. These groups include Community Partners (for community service), Makers Club (for technology and information), the Incubator (for business), and the Rhodos Studio (for design and creativity). (2-8 members each.)
	Continued connections to the wider community, including service at Still Hopes Retirement Community, Richland County Public Library, and IndieBits (a regional video game development showcase).
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Plan to continue all programming.
Goal Upcoming Plans	Encourage growth in interest in Rhodos for both incoming and prospective students. Develop role of returning students as mentors and leaders in creating a sense of belonging for the Rhodos community and to the university as a whole. Improve

	collaborative environment with housing staff to encourage residence life community education plan to be more comprehensively integrated with larger learning community mission.
Resources Needed	Continuing current budget.
Goal Notes	This "Real Time" section covers the period beginning in the Rhodos Fellows program's first semester November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019, into the program's second year.  The Rhodos Makerspace, which serves as the central hub of programming for information, design, and computing, began construction in May 2019, and was not fully completed until October 26, 2019.

Goal 4 - Promote academic and professional pathways in information, design, and computing.

computing.	
Goal Statement	Provide interdisciplinary opportunities for students to pursue academic and professional pathways related to information, design and computing.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The Rhodos Fellows program fosters experiential learning, cultivates internship and career insights, and creates co-curricular opportunities for students in information, design, and computing fields.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain current and develop new programs, guest speakers/scholars/artists, workshops, and field trips. Connect with more local offices and businesses to foreground appropriate jobs and internships.
Achievements	2018-19 guest programs included animator Cam Porter, media professor Evan Meaney. Continued Secret Tools seminars on design and professional communication.
	Experiential programs included: robotics, intro to microcontrollers, intro to electronics, intro to graphics, and more, culminating in semester-long project of building and programming an open source arcade cabinet system.  Makerspace Marathon drew 68 attendees.
	Pioneered new digital microcredentialing system to incentivize and recognize student engagement and experiential learning. 170 unique students have earned 186 badges in the first two months in fields such as Makerspace competency, 3D printing and design.
	Rhodos Makerspace is available for students 24/7, with additional resources, checkout equipment, and expert assistance from 2-10pm every day. In the first 2 months, Rhodos Maker Staff recorded 780 visits to the Makerspace by 170 unique students during the 2-10pm periods alone.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Plan to continue all programming.
Goal Upcoming Plans	Encourage growth in interest in Rhodos for both incoming and prospective students. Develop role of returning students as mentors and leaders in creating a sense of belonging for the Rhodos community and to the university as a whole. Improve

	collaborative environment with housing staff to encourage residence life community education plan to be more comprehensively integrated with larger learning community mission.
Resources Needed	Continuing current budget.
Goal Notes	This "Real Time" section covers the period beginning in the Rhodos Fellows program's first semester November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019, into the program's second year.  The Rhodos Makerspace, which serves as the central hub of programming for information, design, and computing, began construction in May 2019, and was not fully completed until October 26, 2019.

# **Goals - Looking Ahead**

Goals for the next Academic Year.

### **Goal 1 - Connect to Faculty Principal**

Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Close connection with a faculty member is a high-impact practice of a faculty-led living learning community. As Faculty Principal, Dr. Tarr guides and communicates the mission and vision of the Rhodos Fellows program through direct interaction with residents in programs that he personally leads as well as through events and interactions he participates in, supporting community members' pursuits in information, design, and computing.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Increase individual consultations in Rhodos Makerspace. Now that Makerspace is complete, conduct more experiential workshops to encourage independent projects. Increase undergraduate research mentorship through fellowships, grant programs, and independent projects. Continue to teach Rhodos linked classes, as well as remain connected to other linked classes. Continue effective programs and repeat flagship events. Increase faculty principal voice and presence in and through social media.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Continuing in future.
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	Continuing current budget for equipment, food, and expendable supplies Time and effort from Rhodos team for new and recurring content creation.
Goal Notes	

# **Goals - Looking Ahead**

## **Goal 2 - Support academic attainment**

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The Rhodos Fellows fosters an environment of original research and creative activity, high academic performance, and collaborative learning.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain current and develop new linked course pathways. Add additional UNIV 101 sections. Renegotiate standing tutoring options with Student Success Center. Develop internal research grant support program, and increase undergraduate research mentorship through existing fellowships, grant programs. Expand undergraduate research connections.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Continuing in future.
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	Time and effort from Rhodos team to coordinate and participate in linked courses. Seats set aside for Rhodos students in linked courses. Time and effort from SI leaders from Student Success Center. Existing budget for grants to encourage study abroad.
Goal Notes	

# **Goals - Looking Ahead**

## **Goal 3 - Connect students to University and community resources**

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities both as part of the living learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the university.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Rhodos Fellows program connects and develops residents through strategic partnerships within and outside of the University community, positioning students to gain competitive, unique academic and professional experiences in information, design, and computing.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Encourage growth in interest in Rhodos for both incoming and prospective students. Develop role of returning students as mentors and leaders in creating a sense of belonging for the Rhodos community and to the university as a whole. Improve collaborative environment with housing staff to encourage residence life community education plan to be more comprehensively integrated with larger learning community mission.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Plan to continue all programming.
Goal Upcoming Plans	Encourage growth in interest in Rhodos for both incoming and prospective students. Develop role of returning students in creating a sense of belonging for our community and to the university as a whole.
Resources Needed	Continuing budget for Rhodos events.
Goal Notes	

## **Programs or Initiatives**

### **Effective Programs or Initiatives**

List your most effective programs/initiatives toward fulfillment of mission.

Cafe Rhodos- a weekly gathering for coffee with the Faculty Principal and Rhodos staff.

Student groups- regular meetings and events for students interested in community service (Community Partners), business (the Incubator), creativity (the Rhodos Studio), and technology (Makers Club), and professional practice (Maker Staff)

Secret Tools- professional development workshops through the lens of design, led by the Faculty Principal.

Makers Club Presents- a guest speaker and workshop series featuring leaders in information, design, and computing.

Makerspace orientations- a safety training and introduction to the cutting-edge design facilities within the residence hall.

### **Program Launches**

List any programs/initiatives that were newly launched during the Academic Year or any programs/initiatives you would like to launch in the coming year(s). Describe the program/initiatives, provide financial requirements (including additional staff), and academic year in which you would launch. What key performance indicators are you utilizing to track the success of this program?

For the 2019-2020 academic year, we are piloting a microcredentialing program hosted through Blackboard that will allow students to attain badges--meaningful credentials in information, design, and computing--during their time as Rhodos Fellows that will transfer after they leave the university.

Our current structure allows for credentialing at three increasing levels of challenge within the areas of 3D printing and laser cutting, both of which are available in the makerspace. As of now, we have assigned 186 badges to 170 individuals.

We are planning to add more badges in the next year, and also aim to align the microcredentialing progression with Graduation with Leadership Distinction and the experiential learning transcript where possible.

## **Program Rankings**

List any nationally ranked or external recognition during the Academic Year. For each, provide the formal name of the program followed by the name of the organization that issued the ranking, the date of notification, effective date range, and any other relevant information.

Last year UofSC rose to the rank of 8th in the nation in living learning communities at public institutions in US News & World Report. Rhodos Fellows is proud to have been the newest addition to the university's learning communities when these new rankings were announced.

## **Initiatives and Fees**

### **Initiatives**

Describe any new initiatives your unit will need for the coming year.

No new initiatives are planned for the coming year.

### **Fees**

List any new or changed fees that your unit has implemented or had to take on in the last academic year.

No new fees are proposed for the coming year.

## Community Engagement

### **Community Perceptions**

Describe how your unit assesses community perceptions of your engagement, and how the unit assesses the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, community and the institution. Provide specific findings.

One measurement of community perceptions is media appearances. In our first year, Rhodos was featured in USC Today and on the University's Top 20 list of achievements of the year. Our primary social media presence is on Instagram, and we have a slow but steadily growing audience (365 followers) with consistent responsiveness (30-50 engagements per post). Our YouTube videos garnered upwards of 300 views for very specific, targeted sets of communications.

We also track open and click-through rates in our weekly email newsletter, which were consistently high (ranging from 35-90%).

## **Collaborations**

### **Internal Collaborations**

List your Unit's most significant internal collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are internal to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

Green Quad
School of Visual Art and Design
Center for Music Entrepreneurship
Forum on Education Abroad
McNair Institute
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Learning Community
Garnet Media Group/SGTV
Center for Digital Humanities
South Quad
Student Success Center
Carolina Gamers Club

### **External Collaborations**

List your Unit's most significant external collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are external to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

Still Hopes Retirement Community
The Anne Frank House
Indie Bits (The Nickelodeon)
Residential College Society Conference Planning Committee
Richland County Public Library

## **Campus Climate and Inclusion**

### **Campus Climate and Inclusion**

Activities the unit conducted that were designed to improve Campus, Climate, and Inclusion.

Co-sponsored The Yellow Ticket, a unique art exhibition featuring a historic silent film about anti-Semitic restrictions in tsarist Russia, set to live accompaniment by Grammy award winning musician Alicia Svigals and her performance group, The Klezmatics. A Rhodos student facilitated a Q&A session between the performers and the audience.

While nationally diversity and inclusion in tech fields may remain low, women and people of color (POC) are well represented among our inaugural Maker Staff, which is comprised of 57% women and 42% POC.

## **Concluding Remarks**

### Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement

What is your unit struggling with? What plans do you have to overcome the weakness that you have faced in the next academic year.

Our single biggest difficulty in the last year has been integrating a new faculty-led learning community into an existing residence life culture. The Rhodos Fellows community grew very quickly to completely fill the building, and expectations of how the priorities and objectives of this partnership between the Provost's Office and Housing should integrate with the legacy aspects of residence life operations could have been communicated more clearly.

We begin this new reporting cycle with a new Residence Life Coordinator in place, and we are working closely with him and the Assistant Director, with guidance from the Executive Director for Residence Life and the AVP for Student Housing and Well-Being, to ensure that going forward operations are smoother. We also are working to advocate strongly for the promotion of high-achieving Rhodos Fellows as Resident Mentors within Rhodos as the existing RMs depart. Since during the last RM selection cycle instrumental Rhodos Fellows were removed from the community and placed into other buildings, it will be critically important for Housing and Residence Life leadership to prioritize the development of the learning community over other staff placement factors should high achieving Rhodos Fellows decide to apply for RM positions.

### **Key Issues**

Identify key issues or potential challenges your unit will encounter this coming year and the steps you plan on initiating.

University-level communication about Rhodos for recruiting is insufficient, and Housing-level recruiting details is not clear enough. Thus details about Rhodos are communicated to prospects directly by Rhodos staff (or by accident). This is inefficient for a small team without comprehensive marketing support. This may not affect assignments, but affects engagement in important ways.

Non-faculty-led LCs such as Visual/Performing Arts or Engineering cut into our ability to build a cohort in information, design and computing. While these LCs are lower cost options, conversations indicate many students would have applied to Rhodos if they knew what it was (e.g. names of other communities make their purpose obvious, but in marketing materials we are only listed as "Rhodos Fellows" with no further info).

Disproportionately high Greek participation ( $\sim$ 40%) has a suppressive effect on engagement. These students commonly report that they feigned interest on their Rhodos application to be housed in South Quad, a nice building close to Greek facilities. We must cultivate more informed applications in the next round (see marketing above).

SI sessions were impactful in 2018-19, but SSC downsized the program to a less expensive atwill tutoring that students don't use. We need to negotiate new options with SSC, or investigate other options.

Housing data collection is too erratic to rely on. We now rely on paper sign in sheets for

## **Concluding Remarks**

attendance, but

### **Quantitative Outcomes**

Explain any surprises regarding data provided in the quantitative outcomes modules throughout this report.

We are pleasantly surprised by the student involvement using programs designed to operate independent of space and time—for example, the new digital microcredentials (see Goal 4 Real Time), the Rhodos Confidential alternate reality game (see "cool stuff"), and general Rhodos Makerspace training and use. We are working to extend these programs ways that involve more students, but with the hopes or facilitating connections to the Faculty Principal.

### **Cool Stuff**

Describe innovations, happy accidents, good news, etc. that occurred within your unit not noted elsewhere in your reporting.

At the end of AY2018-19, the Rhodos Fellows program was named (and listed second from the top) in the list of the top 20 highlights of the entire university. We were also featured in UofSC Today in November 2018. University communications indicated that they planned to continue our story this year as the Makerspace was completed.

We saw a 43% increase in Rhodos Fellows in AY 2019-20, filling the entire South Quad facility.

As of late October 2019, the Rhodos Makerspace renovation is almost completely finished. Rhodos Fellows are now able to fully use the entire space, and it is now complete enough to be able to schedule a "grand opening" event for early Spring 2020.

To encourage use of the new Rhodos Makerspace, and to foster connections among new students, we developed a new Massive Alternate Reality Game (MARG) called "Rhodos Confidential." Each student received a small USB drive with part of a 3D-printable object. Students competed to be the first to form a team and complete the design, gaining initial competency in Makerspace while drawing them out of their apartments early in the semester to meet new people.

Rhodos Fellows developed and administer a Minecraft server, an online game/engineering platform for residents to interact together. In its first month, we saw over 50 unique users joining hundreds of sessions. We plan to expand this to encourage prospective students to visit a virtual replica of the Rhodos facilities.

In March, we hosted our first Rhodos Leadership Workshop for students returning to our community for a second year. During this day-long event, we collectively reflected on their past year in the program, planned for Fall, and prepared them to serve as mentors to our incoming class.

The Rhodos team was invited to speak to IB Design Technology classes at A. C. Flora High School to discuss the Rhodos Fellows program. Several new applicants for 2019-20 referred to this visit as a primary reason for applying to Rhodos. Our engaged presence on social media in AY 2018-19 facilitated connections between regional high schools with STEM focus and the

## **Concluding Remarks**

Faculty Principal, leading to potentially productive campus visits.

We completed our first web site from scratch in late fall 2018, including a new linked Foundation account that is already receiving Family Fund contributions.

Dr. Tarr attended the SXSW EDU conference in March to connect to national leaders in educational innovation and learn about cutting-edge technological innovations in education that we can use to develop to the Rhodos Fellows program in its second year.