



For Immediate Release
October 18, 2012

MEDIA Contact: Paula Siebeneck
(419) 302-8222

Rhodes State College Hosting Behavioral Intervention Team Training for Colleges

LIMA, Ohio – Last Fall, Rhodes State College received \$349,792 from the U.S. Department of Justice to develop an Education, Communication, Assessment, Intervention and Protection Plan (ECAIPP) that may be used by colleges and universities across the country. This grant will assist in the identification or development of a screening tool to recognize potential high-risk subjects and establish a protocol for its use and prevent tragedies like a campus shooting incident.

As part of the grant, Rhodes State will be providing Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) training sessions. BIT training was developed several years ago at Rhodes State to respond to high-risk behaviors that occur on campus to prevent tragic events like an active shooter. The first training session is **today, Thursday, October 18, from 8:30am-4:00pm in Keese Hall Boardroom**, and over 20 participants from Rhodes State, Ohio State-Lima, Ohio Northern University and University of Northwestern Ohio will be in attendance.

Presenters include Patti McSteen, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Students, Ohio University and Judy Piercy, Associate Director, Residential Housing, Ohio University. The agenda will include an introduction and background to violence on campus, developing a Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), mental health overview, mental health vs. behavior, legal issues and table top case scenarios.

In addition to BIT training sessions, Rhodes State is developing strategies that educate and engage students and college faculty/staff in communicating possible threats. “The current national standard for traditional active shooter response plans is to evacuate, hide out, take action and CALL 911 and wait. All traditional emergency response plans start with a shooter’s actions--reacting instead of prevention. The focus of the grant is to develop an initial prevention strategy and share it at the national, state and local levels which may help protect campuses from an active shooter threat,” said Matthew Kinkley, Executive Director of Workforce/Economic Development and Continuing Education.

Mike Webber, ECAIIP Grant Project Coordinator, retired post commander with the Ohio State Patrol and instructor for the University of Findlay is leading this effort. Mike believes, “that it is essential

to raise awareness, develop prevention strategies, and response preparedness across college campuses to prevent potential tragedies.”

The grant has an advisory board with members including Jeremy Margolis, Former Chief Prosecutor, Department of Justice, Northern District of Chicago, Former Indiana Inspector General; Dennis Kinley, Former Secret Service Special Agent; Michael Herman, Retired Army Colonel; Donna Dickman, Executive Director, Partnership for Violence Free Families, Lima; Rick Amway, Director of Campus Safety & Security, Ohio Board of Regents; Dr. Tom Hull, Clinical Director Allen County Juvenile Detention Center; Denise Mikesell, Educational Psychologist, Rhodes State College; and Reid Caryer, Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

###