



OHIO UNIVERSITY

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Dear Patton College Students:

We are approaching fest season, and as the Dean of your college, I want to encourage you to have fun, but be safe! Remember that as a student in The Patton College of Education, you are expected to live up to our Core Values. Be ethical and lead responsibly! Be agents of change avoiding any risky behavior in the upcoming fests that could be potentially harmful to your future as a graduate of our program.

In previous years, hundreds of students were detained, some were arrested, and most faced judiciary hearings because of inappropriate behavior during fest activities, and several are no longer enrolled at Ohio University because of the penalties they incurred.

Another consequence of the fest season are photos or videos that document embarrassing behavior which are now, and will be for years to come, readily available to employers and graduate admissions committees who routinely "Google" prospective employees and student applicants. You are encouraged to not do anything that would reflect less than the fact that you are being prepared to be leader-educators or human service professionals who inspire practices in those whom you are CALLED TO LEAD.

Given that you and, in many cases, your parents have sacrificed much in the pursuit of your degree, it makes sense to avoid putting what you have accomplished at risk. There are many ways to enjoy the beautiful spring weather and the company of your friends. To quote my colleagues in the Division of Student Affairs: "be smart, be civil, and be safe."

Sincerely,

Renée A. Middleton, Ph.D.
Dean

