



November 23, 2020

Dear Pres Community,

We hope that you and your families remain safe and well in these unprecedented times. In keeping with our commitment of transparency, we are writing to you today to share a supplemental update to the external investigation.

On July 9th, we shared a [community letter](#) and published the full report from Van Dermyden Maddux Law Corporation documenting historical sexual misconduct at Pres. Since sharing this report, we have offered support to survivors of abuse with a [therapy fund](#) established in conjunction with RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization and held a prayer vigil for healing; we seated a new Board of Directors (BOD) and formed committees to advise the Board; we have continued to invite any alumnae or former student of Pres to come forward with any information regarding sexual misconduct and abuse, and 100% of our Faculty, Staff, and Board of Directors have completed updated mandated reporter training and training on the impact of abuse.

The BOD recently received a supplemental report to the July 2020 report from the investigators. With sadness and regret for what members of our community have endured, we share the supplemental report with you today.

Supplemental Report

Following the publication of the Investigative Report, the firm received outreach from 21 individuals who wished to provide additional information, share concerns, or provide clarification about some of the information contained within the Investigative Report. Specifically, the firm received additional information related to John Fernandez, Peggy Orozco, Jeff House and Dave Garbo. Much of the additional information provided corroborated or clarified initial findings. In this supplemental report, and as a final conclusion to the investigator's process, the firm summarizes the additional information gathered. This supplemental report is not intended to be a stand-alone report; it should be read in conjunction with the Investigative Report published in July. You may access the complete supplemental report [here](#).

From the Board of Directors

To the survivors of abuse, on behalf of the entire organization, the Directors express our deepest apologies for the suffering you have endured. We understand these words cannot erase what was done, but hope to demonstrate by our ongoing actions that we support you. We believe that for Pres, systemic change is not only necessary, but that it is our moral obligation. We are driving this change by developing governance structures that hold the school leadership accountable. This year, we have undergone essential training so that we are prepared to ask the hard, but necessary questions and to make sure that the school has prevention policies, procedures, and programs in place. We are 100% committed to ensuring that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, and that every student is protected at Pres.



Action Steps

Pres has been working vigilantly to fulfill [the commitments made](#) in July, and has launched additional efforts to protect our students and effect true institutional change. The following list signals that progress is being made and highlights new steps initiated by the school and the BOD:

- The BOD commissioned the creation of a Student Protection Committee to facilitate the ongoing review and implementation of abuse prevention policies and programs.
- The Director of the Office for the Prevention of Student Bullying, Harassment & Abuse attended the [Praesidium Guardian](#) Certification Program to become certified in organizational abuse prevention.
- Age-appropriate student curriculum on understanding, recognizing, and reporting sexual misconduct has been developed in partnership with RAINN.
- Pres hired a full-time HR Director who is auditing and updating the school's screening and selection practices for employees and volunteers.
- The BOD shared its [immediate priorities](#) and they are in progress, we will continue to share milestone updates with the community.
- Pres also made a number of changes to leadership, training, and processes before launching the external investigation, click [here](#) to review.

We recognize this investigation may not have revealed all instances of prior misconduct. Anyone with information about inappropriate conduct may call the hotline at (800) 490-7513, or reach out to [Mary Ann Demos](#), Senior Case Manager or to [Chérie Somavia](#), the Director of the Office for the Prevention of Student Bullying, Harassment & Abuse.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and the holiday season, we ask for your continued support and prayers of healing and unity for our school and community as we strive to emerge from this as a healthier, safer, united community for which everyone can be proud.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Elkins".

Holly Elkins,
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Rhodes '99".

Beth Rhodes '99
Chair, Board of Directors