



ATTENTION!**NATIONAL COLLEGE CHALLENGE TO UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS TO PROMOTE SAFER
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 8, 2018

Waltham, Massachusetts – Announcing a groundbreaking new national initiative, the **STRATERUS Alliance for Safe College Communities**, which is challenging colleges and universities to enhance the higher education experience by investing in programs and policies that address the campus drinking culture and foster safe and supportive learning environments for their students.

Under the leadership of **STRATERUS** (from the Latin: *balance; unity*), the **STRATERUS Alliance** will bring together public and private service providers to work with campus and community leaders to promote evidence-based solutions to the problems caused by student alcohol overuse. Researchers both within the **STRATERUS Alliance** and across the globe have generated effective approaches for reducing the harms caused by student drinking, but too few campus administrators have made it a priority to learn about and then implement those strategies. One of the fundamental pillars of **STRATERUS** is the **STRATERUS Challenge** which is being issued to college and university presidents to assess how well their institution's efforts line up with these evidence-based programs and policies.

Led by national experts in public health and research, **STRATERUS** is committed to creating real urgency and methodology about the need to establish college communities where students can live, work, develop, and play in safety. The overuse of alcohol remains one of the top most significant social problems affecting today's college communities. Underage and binge drinking – and the many associated harms that impact both students and campus neighborhoods – have been accepted too often as inevitable and intractable problems as well as unavoidable results of joining a college community. The **STRATERUS Alliance** seeks to change that for the betterment of education for all college students.

College stakeholders can learn more about **STRATERUS** and indicate their interest in the **STRATERUS Alliance** as potential clients or members at www.STRATERUS.org.

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