

# TECH TOMORROW

## Strategic Goal One Education for Life

*Tennessee Tech provides education that unleashes the potential and passion within our students and prepares them for successful careers and culturally enriched lives. Tech also provides educational opportunities, programs, credentials, and degrees to fuel the lifelong learning necessary for enduring achievement.*

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## Strategic Goal Two Innovation in All We Do

*Tennessee Tech innovates in all we do, embracing and deploying our technological foundation in our education, research, service, and stewardship.*

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## Strategic Goal Three Exceptional Stewardship

*Tennessee Tech is committed to optimizing resources and continuously improving effectiveness, efficiency, and return on investment for students.*

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## Strategic Goal Four Engagement for Impact

*Tennessee Tech fosters partnerships with government, business, and non-profit organizations to advance economic and workforce development, create and disseminate knowledge, serve the public good, and generate cultural impact.*

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## About Tech Tomorrow

Tech Tomorrow, the dynamic strategic plan for Tennessee Tech University, was approved by the university's Board of Trustees on June 26, 2018. The plan contained new mission and vision statements for the university, a list of core principles, and four strategic goals (with priority actions and tactics underneath each goal).

Four faculty members serve as chairs of working groups for each of the plan's strategic goals, with the working groups drawn from both faculty and staff across the university. Each group, working from the approved plan, develop proposals which are brought to the Implementation Steering Committee.

## Mission

*Tennessee's technological university creates, advances, and applies knowledge to expand opportunity and economic competitiveness. As a STEM-infused, comprehensive institution, Tennessee Tech delivers enduring education, impactful research, and collaborative service.*

## Vision

*Tennessee Tech will achieve national prominence and impact through its engaged students, dedicated faculty, and career-ready graduates known for their creativity, tenacity, and analytical approach to problem solving.*

## Core Principles

**Academic Excellence** – We expect and produce high academic achievement, foster collaboration, exemplify integrity, and inspire creativity and realized potential for the entire campus community.

**Community Engagement** – We collaborate with community members and organizations to advance positive societal and economic needs.

**Meaningful Innovation** – We are purposefully innovative in all we do.

**Student Success** – We empower students to realize their potential, craft individualized experiences, and discover their passion.

**Supportive Environment** – We are committed to a diverse and welcoming community and provide a campus size and atmosphere that fosters personal attention and fit.

**Value Creation** – We provide a high return on investment from our state, tuition, and donor resources and foster productive, responsible, and caring contributors to society.

## Strategic Goal One: Education for Life

### Curricular Learning Communities

This task force is examining benefits to students of curricular learning communities, and has developed a proposal for a pilot program of about 80 students for the Fall 2023 semester. Research shows that students who participate in CLCs have higher retention rates, academic achievement (based on GPA course grades), graduation rates, and time to degree completion.

### Residential Learning Communities

This group will examine potential benefits to students of a residential learning communities (RLCs) program at Tennessee Tech. RLCs are considered a cluster of students living in campus residential housing that share a living space based on their interest in a common topic. RLCs are widely acknowledged as a best practice in higher education, having been shown to increase student retention rates and academic performance, as well as increase overall satisfaction with college.

## Strategic Goal Two: Innovation in All We Do

### General Education Vision Committee

Creating “a Tech-unique general education curriculum to provide the foundation for technologically adept, analytically capable, and career-ready graduates” is identified as a priority action in the strategic plan. As such, Tennessee Tech is beginning a long-term (multiple committees over multiple years) review of its General Education curriculum. The goals for the Vision committee are to: (1) develop a vision/philosophy for general education on our campus, and (2) identify two or three potential pathways for operationalizing that vision. This work will engage numerous stakeholders (students, faculty, administration, community/industry, and alumni) through focus groups (and perhaps surveys) in the coming 12 to 15 months. The Vision committee will also be charged with looking at peers across the nation to see what might be possible as we “dream big.”

### Tech-infused Course/Program Committee

This committee will examine the degree of technological infusion, and the quality of that infusion, in Tech’s current course offerings and programs. This group will look at the ways in which courses/programs incorporate technologies and technology experiences for students (beyond instructional technologies) and is important for identifying potential programmatic changes for technological innovation. The committee will develop proposals for how to strategically increase the number and quality of technology-infused programs/courses at Tennessee Tech, as well as identify opportunities and investigate the feasibility of (1) every undergraduate program of study offering at least one course completely online/hybrid, and (2) every college/school offering at least one degree program (preferably undergraduate) completely online.

### One-to-One Technology Committee

This committee will examine the feasibility of a one-to-one technology initiative at Tennessee Tech. One idea to be explored by this university-wide committee is the feasibility of providing

iPads/Laptops/etc. for students, particularly non-traditional adult learners and/or those enrolled in programs fully offered as online/hybrid. First-generation college students are another subgroup that might benefit most. Compared to their peers, these students often have a weaker sense of digital literacy and may come from rural communities that lack the resources to prepare them for college.

## Strategic Goal Three: Exceptional Stewardship

### Enrollment Data Analytics Task Force

Utilizing data about Tech students, this task force is leveraging university expertise in business intelligence via College of Business faculty and senior capstone students to examine factors in student retention and recruitment, and develop proposals on how to best use this intelligence.

### University Compensation Study

Tennessee Tech University is reviewing the University’s current compensation plan and classification structure which are essential elements to attracting and retaining faculty and staff. To make progress toward this important goal, a full-time faculty and staff compensation and classification study is underway. While this university-wide effort is being led by Human Resources, Tom Timmerman is a member of the project team, which will provide input, guidance, oversight, and assistance to Mercer, our consultant partner, to identify strategies and options for upgrading or revising the current compensation model and classification structure.

## Strategic Goal Four: Engagement for Impact

### Global Experience

This group is exploring the creation of an all-inclusive global research and learning hub for both faculty and students. The center’s leadership develops, facilitates, and supports study abroad opportunities, student and faculty exchanges, international teaching residencies, sustainable global partnerships, international recruiting, and new global degree programs. The Center for Global Experience identifies workforce and business development opportunities, encourages global entrepreneurship, provides cultural enrichment for students, and sparks a lifelong spirit of exploration.

### Art, Culture & Innovation Program

The Art, Culture & Innovation (ACI) program will celebrate the creative, cultural, historical, and innovative offerings at Tennessee Tech by designing specialized campus tours and interconnected exhibitions highlighting the university’s collections, artworks, architecture, historical sites, and innovations. This program will develop new experiential outreach initiatives and sustainable partnerships that will further shape and define Tennessee Tech’s culture by creatively telling the university’s story through diverse and multi-disciplinary perspectives.