

STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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NAVIGATING EXCELLENCE: EXPLORING EXCEPTIONAL STEWARDSHIP

In this edition of the Student Affairs newsletter, we delve into the critical theme of exceptional stewardship, recognizing its profound impact on the university community. Stewardship, at its core, embodies the responsible management of resources, and in the context of student affairs, it becomes the linchpin for an enriched collegiate experience. Through our many articles, we spotlight instances where acts of stewardship by the Division of Student Affairs has led to tangible improvements in student services, campus facilities, and support programs.

By bringing attention to these success stories, we aim to underscore the importance of strategic decision-making and efficient resource allocation. Exceptional stewardship is not just a financial matter. It's a commitment to fostering an environment where students flourish academically, socially, and personally. This issue invites readers to explore how conscientious stewardship is intricately woven into the fabric of our university, influencing the vibrancy and success of the Tennessee Tech community.



A REMARKABLE LEGACY: REMEMBERING MICHELLE HUDDLESTON

In the world of higher education, there are those whose impact transcends their job descriptions. Michelle Huddleston happened to fall into that category. As the Associate Director of Residential Life and Service-Learning at Tennessee Tech, Michelle had a profound impact on Student Affairs that will be felt for years to come.

Michelle's journey in Student Affairs spanned over a decade, from 2008 to 2021. During this time, she wore multiple hats, each one reflecting her unwavering commitment to the students, faculty, and the broader community. Her roles included serving as a teaching assistant, Assistant Director of the Service-Learning Center, adjunct faculty member, and a service coordinator.

One of Michelle's most notable contributions was her dedication to service-learning. Her passion for community engagement was evident, as she tirelessly worked to bridge the gap between the academic world and the real-world issues that students faced.

Michelle's legacy extended beyond service learning. She took on the challenge of overseeing the university's food pantry, a responsibility that became all the more crucial during turbulent times. The March 2020 tornadoes and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for students. Michelle's leadership shone brightly as she collaborated with various departments on campus to ensure that no student went without meals. Her innovative "Meals on Wings" program provided students with essential food while they were confined to their residence hall rooms or off-campus apartments.

Michelle's was extremely active in the surrounding Upper Cumberland community. She played a pivotal role in the introduction of "Butterfly Blessing Boxes" in the community. These boxes offered a simple yet powerful concept: passers-by could take what they needed or contribute by leaving canned goods and pantry items for others.



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In recognition of her extraordinary contributions, Michelle received Tech's Wings of Kindness award in 2021. Her dedication and unwavering service made her a symbol of compassion and leadership at Tennessee Tech. She was also presented with an honorary key to the city by former Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton, an acknowledgment of her significant impact beyond the campus.

Michelle Huddleston's legacy in Student Affairs will continue to inspire students, faculty, and staff. Her memory lives on, not only in the hearts of those who knew her but also in the programs and initiatives she championed. It's a reminder how a single individual's commitment and contribution can create a ripple effect that touches countless lives. If you are interested in donating towards the creation of the Michelle Huddleston Memorial Food Pantry Endowment, please use the QR code below. Your contribution pays tribute to Michelle's enduring legacy and establishes an endowment ensuring sustained support for the pantry in the years to come, forever associating the place Michelle cherished with her name.

CAREERS IN STUDENT AFFAIRS MONTH

Last December's newsletter discussed the remarkable success of the Careers in Student Affairs (CSAM) events of the past year. The purpose of CSAM is to educate students about the numerous opportunities and fulfilling work in Student Affairs, and this year's events definitely achieved this goal.

These events included an ice cream social, breakfast, and a luncheon, all of which generated a significant turnout and sparked a lot of interest in Careers in Student Affairs. For this year's CSAM celebration, the Office of Student Affairs decided to revive this event series with the aim of achieving similar accomplishments once more.

The events for Careers in Student Affairs Month, similar to last year's, focused on informing and educating Tennessee Tech students about careers in Student Affairs. For the kickoff event, Student Affairs employees participated in the Center for Career Development's Careers & Coffee series, which provided students with the opportunity to discuss careers in Student Affairs over iced coffee.

CSAM continued with "Get the SCOOP on Student Affairs." The event allowed attending students to enjoy free ice cream and ask representatives from Student Affairs questions about careers in this field. The campaign concluded with a luncheon that featured the newest additions to the Student Affairs staff, who spoke about the required education and everything that comes with this career choice. Thank you again to all those who participated and made CSAM happen!



Make a gift to the Michelle Huddleston Memorial Food Pantry Endowment



PAINT YOUR OWN PATH TO STUDENT SUCCESS

In a recent campus-wide Halloween Hallway decorating contest, the Counseling Center secured second place. The display, showcased a thoughtful and engaging theme: "paint your own path to student success."

The heart of the initiative lay in the distribution of 100 "paint your own path success bags" by the Counseling Center team. These bags were curated to include mental health resources and other incentives. This innovative approach aimed to encourage students to embark on their unique journeys to success while fostering a supportive and uplifting atmosphere.

The Counseling Center continues to stand out for its exceptional stewardship. The team's unwavering dedication is evident in their commitment to enhancing student success through the provision of vital mental health support and resources. By seamlessly integrating the Halloween Hallway triumph with their broader mission, the Counseling Center reinforces its pivotal role in nurturing the well-being and success of the campus community.



DECADES KARAOKE

The Center for Student Engagement livened up the month on September 14 with a Decades Karaoke event. Students were encouraged to dress up as their favorite decade to enjoy a fun-filled night of singing the classics, painting CDs, and savoring a delicious menu of sliders, chicken tenders, tater tots, and cookies.

There was something for everyone to do at the first Decades Karaoke. The uniqueness behind this event displays the Center for Student Engagement's commitment to providing all students with a memorable college experience.



DR. CHESTER GOAD PLAYS KEY ROLE IN 2023 CAS STANDARDS UPDATES

Dr. Chester Goad, Director of the Accessible Education Center, played a pivotal role in updating the Disability Resources & Services section of the new version 11 of the CAS Professional Standards for Higher Education guide. With his expertise and dedication to inclusivity, Dr. Goad contributed valuable insights to ensure that the guidelines provided comprehensive and effective support for students with disabilities. Through his efforts, the university can now better address the unique needs of these students, fostering an inclusive learning environment that promotes equal opportunities and success for all.



STRESS RELIEF FOR FINALS WEEK

As Finals Week looms on the horizon, the potential for heightened stress is a shared experience. Recognizing the universal nature of stress and its impact on well-being, an initiative was launched to equip individuals with healthy coping mechanisms crucial for success.

Throughout the week, a curated selection of LinkedIn Learning videos took center stage, each tailored to shed light on different aspects of stress management. The schedule featured daily video recommendations, covering diverse themes such as "Defining Stress," "Identifying Triggers," "Reactions vs. Responses," "Creating Calm with Breathing Techniques," and "Making Positive Personal Choices."

As the campus collectively navigates the challenges of Finals Week, the commitment to fostering a culture of well-being remains a cornerstone, reinforcing that mental health is an integral component of academic success.



HEATING UP THE QUAD RETURNS

Heating Up the Quad, a beloved Tennessee Tech tradition, returned to the Main Quad on October 17th. The Student Affairs Health, Wellness, and Well-being Team partnered with the Provost's Office to host a gathering where various offices, organizations, businesses, and clubs cooked some of their favorite comfort food for the Fall season. Tickets were available to purchase for both students and staff, with the proceeds going to the campus food pantry.

The uniqueness of this year's event was its dedicated emphasis on offering wholesome choices. The Health, Wellness, and Well-being Team worked hard to guarantee a variety of options catering to diverse food sensitivities and dietary restrictions. The commitment to health proved successful based on the substantial turnout. Despite the chilly weather, the attendees and participants enjoyed the event and are already looking forward to next year's Heating Up the Quad.



DR. CHRISTINA MICK EARNS ADHD CLINICAL CERTIFICATION

We are thrilled to share that Dr. Christina Mick, Director of The Counseling Center, has successfully fulfilled all the requirements and obtained certification as an ADHD Clinical Services Provider this summer. This certification, in addition to her LPC/MHSP certification, equips her to teach valuable strategies that can aid students in overcoming executive functioning challenges.

Throughout the certification process, she underwent an additional 40 hours of training beyond her clinical license and accomplished 200 hours of clinical contact with ADHD diagnosed clients under the guidance of clinical supervision and consultation. Congratulations to Dr. Christina Mick on this significant achievement!



UPCOMING EVENTS

There is always something exciting going on at Tennessee Tech! Check out all the great upcoming events hosted by the Division of Student Affairs and Tennessee Tech, and contact us for more information!

- **Commencement.** The Fall graduation ceremonies will take place at 9:00 am and 2:00 pm on December 8th at the Hooper Eblen Center.
- **Spring 2024 Classes.** Classes start back on January 11.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Vigil.** Event will be held on January 15 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Tech Pride Room. Hosted by the Center for Student Engagement and Intercultural Affairs.
- **Jammy Jam.** Event is scheduled for January 19 at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Organized by the SGA SOLO Events Committee.



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