

STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

WRITTEN BY STAFF

Each year, Tennessee Tech hosts a variety of Week of Welcome events. Student Affairs plays a crucial role in the success of these efforts. The events begin when students move into the residence halls and extend through the first week of classes. This early engagement fosters student involvement in campus life.

"Week of Welcome provides opportunities for students to connect with new people, explore student organizations, and have fun," said Dr. Ben Stubbs, Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement. Several Student Affairs departments hosted events during the week of welcome, including Club Golden Eagle, Mix & Mingle, Trivia Night, Multicultural Affairs Welcome, Meet the Greeks, Game Night, Welcome Picnic, Yoga at the Burn, and Wall-A-Palooza.

VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS HOSTS SUMMER RETREAT

WRITTEN BY
STAFF

The Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs hosted a two-day retreat for the leaders in the Division on June 28-29. Dr. Cynthia Polk-Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs stated, "This Inaugural Leadership Retreat provided an opportunity for us to gather as leaders in the Division to reflect on our many accomplishments, engage in team-building activities, and set strategic goals and establish direction for the upcoming year."

Members of the Executive Leadership Team facilitated discussions and engaged the group in collaborative exercises, and one of the major highlights of the retreat was a multi-session discussion on learning and applying strengths. Each attendee completed the Gallup Clifton Strengths Assessment before the retreat. This assessment helps participants identify their top ten strengths. During the Strengths Finder session, facilitated by Associate Vice Provost of the Division of Student Success at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, CourtneyJo Sandidge, Division leaders focused on understanding their own strengths and how they complement the strengths of other team members.

Overall, the retreat enabled our Student Affairs professionals to reflect, reset, and renew our commitment to student success. We look forward to the 2nd annual retreat next summer!



SUMMER INTERNS SHINE

WRITTEN BY
STAFF

This summer, a group of talented interns joined the Student Affairs team, including Josh G. (Tennessee Tech), Na'Quaja G. (Tennessee Tech), and Sydney F. (University of Tennessee, Knoxville). Josh, Na'Quaja, and Sydney took part in a 10-week internship program from May-July. They gained experience in several areas of Student Affairs, including strategic planning and assessment, communication, event planning, and soft skills development. They did an excellent job helping the Division prepare for the new academic year. We appreciate all their hard work and wish them the best of luck in the future!



TECH HOSTS CBFO CONSORTIUM

WRITTEN BY
STAFF

The 4th Annual Culturally Based Fraternal Organizations (CBFO) Consortium for Tennessee colleges and universities was hosted by Tennessee Tech on August 5. This consortium provided a full day of education, engagement, empowerment, and connection for Culturally-Based Fraternal Organization (CBFO) student leaders and advisors. The event focused on self-advocacy, conflict resolution, knowledge of self, organizational and



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personal values, and leading with purpose. In addition to participation from Tennessee Tech organizations, Austin Peay, Belmont, and UT Martin also had organizations in attendance.

STAFF ATTENDS SACSA INSTITUTE

**WRITTEN BY
DR. CHRISTINA MICK**

Christina Mick, Director, Tennessee Tech University Counseling Center, and Courtney Thompson, Executive Director of Residential Life participated in the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) and NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Region III Mid-Manager's Institute that was held on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi from June 19-24, 2022.

The Mid-Managers Institute (MMI) is a focused and intensive professional development experience presented by a partnership between SACSA and NASPA Region III. This program offers an opportunity for mid-level professionals to enhance and develop the skills, relationships, and dispositions that distinguish them in the profession and enables them to make more meaningful contributions to the people and programs they serve.

MMI is designed for individuals with at least five years of experience as a full-time professional with oversight and supervisory responsibility of one or more units and professional staff members.

Dr. Mick and Mr. Thompson learned from faculty mentors, guest presenters, and their mid-level colleagues on topics such as managing from the middle, navigating campus climate, strategic planning, the synergy between academic affairs and student affairs, and professional competencies and career planning.



WELCOME CLASS OF 2026!

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2026 as members of the Tennessee Tech community and look forward to supporting them along their academic journey. The Division of Student Affairs is here to support the engagement and personal growth of all students who attend Tennessee Tech! Students will have the opportunity to take advantage of our programs and services that are designed to support holistic development and wellbeing, foster an inclusive community, create connections, and support Tennessee Tech's commitment to academic excellence. Wings Up!



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