

Tennessee Technological University

Extended Programs & Regional Development School of Interdisciplinary Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

INTRODUCTION

Extended Programs & Regional Development and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies are pleased to submit the following 2010-2011 annual report for the first year of the 2010-2015 planning cycle. The report highlights information about retention, enrollment, and graduation, collaborations with the academic and business communities, results of scholarly research, University Service Center activities, and non-credit programs. The accomplishments are the results of the dedicated service of many internal and external partners. For those efforts, we are most grateful. We look forward to continuing to work together as we all strive to achieve new goals in the coming years, with the ultimate result of the “life-long success of our students.”

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Extended Programs & Regional Development
School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Retention:

- First-time freshmen typically do not enroll directly into the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and, therefore, pertinent information about first-time freshman retention is not available per Dr. Glenn James, Office of Institutional Research.
- Retention data from the Office of Institutional Research on transfer students in the school is not available for the current reporting year. The unofficial retention rate for students in off-campus cohort groups of transfer students in McMinnville, Crossville, Huntsville and Oak Ridge was 78.38% from Fall 2010 (37) to Spring 2011 (29).
- Hundreds of students every year are admitted to Tennessee Tech University's 2+2 education program at community college locations in the Eastern and Southern Regions of TTU's service area. Extended Programs and Regional Development provides recruitment, logistical support, and a variety of other types of support to these programs. These 2+2 programs have a 90% retention rate which exceeds that of the same programming on main campus. Students form strong bonds in their learning communities which aids them in completion of the program.
- Retention data for off-campus and online graduate courses in Education will be reported by the College of Education. Extended Programs and Regional Development also provides support to students enrolled in these programs.

Enrollment:

- Enrollment increases can be attributed in part to the maturing of the school, created in 2001, and increased awareness of the degree programs available through the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Recruiting was increased, promoting degrees available through the school to community college graduates and transfer students, resulting in increased enrollment.
- For the five-year period from Fall 2006 to Fall 2010, enrollment increased 58%. The table on the following page contains enrollment data retrieved from the Office of Institutional Research's website at the following URL:

Interdisciplinary Studies Enrollment by Degree Program					
Degree Programs	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010
Interdisciplinary Studies	113	150	152	183	192
Professional Studies	50	44	31	46	49
Master of Professional Studies	9	14	24	31	31
Total	172	208	207	260	272

Degrees Awarded:

- Total number of Interdisciplinary Studies graduates since the school's inception in Fall 2001 is 594.
- Graduation data for the five-year period from 2006-2010 can be seen in the table below.

Interdisciplinary Studies Graduates by Degree Program															
Degree Programs	2006-2007			2007-2008			2008-2009			2009-2010			2010-2011		
	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring
Interdisciplinary Studies	8	15	15	12	19	35	13	30	30	14	32	38	11	18	29
Professional Studies	5	3	8	4	2	5	4	7	6	0	3	2	1	6	3
Master of Professional Studies								1	1	0	0	5	0	8	3
Semester Total	13	18	23	16	21	40	17	38	37	14	35	45	12	32	35

Annual Total	54	77	92	94	79
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Degree Innovations:

- The Interdisciplinary Studies degree for off-campus programs has been accelerated, creating a Fast Track program that allows working adults who have an A.S. degree or equivalent to graduate in two calendar years or less. Orientation, registration, advisement, and other support are being provided to these students by Extended Programs & Regional Development and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.
- Project “Lead the Way” Principles of Engineering course was offered to high school students in Clay and Jackson counties. The purpose of the program is to expose students to a broad overview of the field of engineering, technology, and its related processes. Principles of Engineering used academic exercises along with hands-on projects to demonstrate the skills needed to become a professional in an engineering or technology related field. In addition to onsite instruction, a portion of the course in Clay County was facilitated by video conference through the Exceed Network. This was carried out through a partnership between Tennessee Tech’s instructor, Mr. Matt Boynton, and a Clay County science teacher, Mr. Derick Upchurch. The course provided an opportunity for eligible students to earn both CTE high school credit and one hour of TTU Introduction to Engineering credit.
- Two new concentrations in the Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies program in Health Administration and International Organizational Leadership became available this past year.
- Two new concentrations in the Master of Professional Studies degree program in Human Resources Leadership, and Training and Development were offered for the first time in 2010-2011.

Collaborative Efforts:

- Continued to collaborate with Motlow State Community College (MSCC) and Roane State Community College (RSCC) to offer the accelerated Fast Track program in McMinnville with MSCC and in Crossville, Huntsville, and Oak Ridge with RSCC.
- Continued collaboration with the other TBR schools involved in the Regents Online Degree Program developing new degree concentrations for both the bachelors and masters level programs.
- Collaborated with Volkswagen, Chattanooga State Community College (ChSCC) and campus partners to craft an agreement to provide education and training that align with the unique needs of Volkswagen. A workforce

development system will provide a seamless articulation of education and training through ChSCC and TTU for students to obtain a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology. The skills and competencies essential to the Volkswagen workforce mandated a systematic re-evaluation of the curriculums in engineering, manufacturing and industrial technology at both ChSCC and TTU. Classes are to begin this fall at the VW Academy. “We saw this as a great opportunity to demonstrate how higher education can be innovative and responsive to the needs of students and industry,” said TTU President Bob Bell. “We are excited about the collaboration with Volkswagen and Chattanooga State because it allows us all to align our focus with the state’s goals to increase higher education opportunities for students and expand support of workforce development.”

- As a result of a dual admissions program now in place with Chattanooga State, Nashville State, Pellissippi State, Roane State and Vol State, students will have an efficient transfer process to TTU and academic support from advisers at community colleges and the university.
- TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute), was established in Fall 2010 to help focus TTU resources on economic development in the Upper Cumberland region and to serve as a vital resource for faculty, students, business, government, educational, and community leaders. The Tennessee Tech University mission emphasizes a special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee, a focus on scholarly activity, especially basic and applied research, creative endeavors, and public service, so TECH-REDI was developed in alignment with the University mission. The TECH-REDI vision, mission and strategy follow.
 - VISION: To be recognized by officials in federal, state and local government as well as private industry as a leader in the economic development of the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.
 - MISSION: To leverage Tennessee Tech University resources to facilitate efforts of federal, state and local governments as well as private industry to enhance the economic environment in the Upper Cumberland and surrounding region.
 - STRATEGY:
 - Establishing a university culture of support for regional economic development
 - Creating economic development partnerships between TTU and regional organizations
 - Encouraging faculty to offer economic development internship opportunities and related course work for students
 - Pursuing funding opportunities to support regional economic development

- In Spring 2011, TECH-REDI short term objectives were successfully accomplished to develop a network that can create and nurture economic development partnerships between TTU and external organizations including the following:
 - Charter the Economic Development Council
 - Charter Economic Development Stakeholders
 - Host the Governor's Jobs Roundtable
 - Develop baseline econometric data for the region
 - Develop processes for faculty and student participation in regional economic development
 - Initiate economic development project activities
 - Complete training through the Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course

- TTU University Service Center, TTU Business Media Center and Upper Cumberland United Way collaborated on the HelpFirst website; an information and referral website designed to direct people to local resources and local volunteer opportunities. Seven volunteers logged more than 500 volunteer hours on the project this year. This partnership will continue as the project expands for years to come.

- TTU University Service Center, PC Habitat for Humanity and the PC Pre K Program collaborated on the first annual Make-A-Difference project; a literacy project designed to promote reading in low income families. Thirty volunteers logged almost 200 volunteer hours on this project. More than 400 books were collected and distributed this year to each Pre K student (386) in Putnam County.

- Dr. Steve Frye, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, is collaborating with Dr. Shannon Collins, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, on a research project studying belief challenges in the adult learning process.

Programs and projects in terms of status-processes-outcomes:

- Began promoting new concentrations in the Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies program in Health Administration and International Organizational Leadership and new concentrations in the Masters of Professional Studies Degree Program in Human Resources Leadership and Training and Development.

- Off-campus Accelerated Degree Program for Working Adults:
 - STATUS: The first Fast Track program was started in collaboration with Motlow State Community College in Fall 2009. In Fall 2010, the Fast Track program was expanded to include

collaboration with Roane State Community College with programs in Crossville, Huntsville, and Oak Ridge.

- PROGRESS: The Fast Track program at all four campuses is flourishing, with new students being added to the program each semester. Enrollment for Spring 2011 was 14 at McMinnville, 11 at Crossville, at 13 Huntsville, and 10 at Oak Ridge.
- OUTCOMES: One of the students in the McMinnville cohort became the first graduate of the Fast Track program in Spring 2011, and three other McMinnville students are expected to graduate before or during Fall 2011.

Highlights and news for 2010-2011:

Books Published

Frye, S. B. (in preparation). Religious Education beyond the Four Walls. In P. Isaac-Savage (Ed.), *Adult Education in Religious Institutions*. New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Editorial Activities

Dr. Steve Frye currently serves on the editorial board for the *Adult Learning Journal*

Dr. Steve Frye served as Proposal Reviewer for the 2011 conference of the American Association for Adult & Continuing Education

Dr. Susan Elkins currently serves on the editorial board for the *Advanced Management Journal* of the Society for the Advancement of Management.

Presentations

Boles, T.H. (2011, March 27). *Use of Passive samplers in Sewer Lines to Qualitatively Monitor Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Analyzed by LC/MS/MS*. Presentation at the 241st American Chemical Society National Meeting, Anaheim, California.

Bell, R.R., Elkins, S.A. (2011, June 10). *TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute)*. Presentation to the East Tennessee Economic Council, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Elizandro, D. W., Needy, K. (University of Arkansas), Elkins, S.A., Malone, B. (Mississippi State University). *An Information System for Evaluating the*

Effectiveness of STEM-based Programs. Refereed and accepted for Institute of Industrial Engineering Conference, May 2011, Reno, Nevada.

Elkins, S.A. & Elizandro, D. W. (2011, April 20). *REDI for Action: Celebrating our Mission of Serving the Region with TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute)*. Presentation at the Association for Continuing Higher Education South Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

Elkins, S.A., Bell, R. R., Pardue, S. (2011, April 1). *Developing Leaders for Tomorrow's Science and Engineering Organizations*. Presentation at the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida.

Bell, R. R., Elkins, S.A. & Elizandro, D. W. (2011, March 28). *TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute)*. Presentation at the Governor's Regional Jobs Roundtable, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Bell, R. R., Elkins, S.A. & Elizandro, D. W. (2011, February 11). *TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute)*. Presentation to the Highlands Executive Committee, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Bell, R. R., Elkins, S.A. & Elizandro, D. W. (2010, November 17). *TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute)*. Presentation to the Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair, Executive Director, and Executive Staff Members.

Elkins, S.A. & Elizandro, D. W. (2010, October 8). *TECH-REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute) Proposed Strategic Plan and Operational Processes*. Presentation to the President's Cabinet, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Frye, S.B. (2010, March 25). *Social Network Analysis: Theory and methods*. Workshop presented at the Tennessee Board of Regents Research Symposium, Nashville, Tennessee.

Frye, S.B. (2010, November 2). *Understanding how adults learn*. Invited presentation at the annual professional development conference of the University of Tennessee Extension Services (two sessions), Nashville, Tennessee.

Frye, S.B. (2010, October 28). *Challenging beliefs: A study of writing institute participants and their learning experiences*. Presentation at the 59th annual meeting of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education, Clearwater, Florida.

Workshops and Panels

- Dr. Steve Frye led the following workshops:

- “Critical Thinking and Problem Solving” for the Upper Cumberland Institute for Writing and Critical Thinking. July 22, 2010.
 - “Communicating with Professors” for the members of the TTU Men’s Basketball team, October 6, 2010.
 - “Stress and the University Student” for the membership of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, November 16, 2010.
 - “Help...I Need to Make Grades!!!” for the membership of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, February 10, 2011.
- Dr. Steve Frye led a panel discussion at the Graduate Student Breakfast at the annual meeting of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education, Clearwater, Florida, October 28, 2010.

Innovation resulting in savings, efficiency and/or improved outcomes

- In an effort to reduce potential theft and increase efficiency, Extended Programs and Regional Development has utilized the university’s online payment system (Marketplace) for non-credit programs/classes. The online payment system that our partner Ed2go uses to collect payments from our students was utilized. These efforts alone have reduced man hours spent on collecting student fees.
- Increased participation in free webinars as a cost-saving alternative for professional development.
- Reduced travel expense by increasing the use of conference calls and electronic communication for meetings.
- Partnered with Vice President Mark Hutchins, University Advancement, to secure funding of 15 Dottie West Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each awarded to students enrolled in the 2+2 Elementary Education Program at the Motlow McMinnville site.
- Collaborated with campus units to establish consistent procedures to serve adult transfer students more efficiently.

Grants/External Funding

Elkins, S.A., Elizandro, D.W. (2010, November). *TECH -REDI (Regional Economic Development Institute)*. \$673,000 (Funding Confirmed Jan. 5, 2011). Appalachian Regional Commission.

Elkins, S.A., Peach, L., Hayes, J., and Barlow, J. (2010, April – 2010, June). Tennessee First to the Top Scope of Work Project, Upper Cumberland Region. \$12,500. State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE).

Boynton, M. and Elkins, S.A. (2010, April). Assisted Clay County in Perkins Reserve Funds – Engineering *Project Lead the Way*. \$60,000. Career-Technical Education, Tennessee Department of Education.

Hunter, K., Bell, R.R. and Elkins, S.A. (2010, July). *Governor's School for Emerging Technologies*. \$180,000 (Recurring Funding Annually). Tennessee Department of Education.

Boynton, M., Hunter, K., Elkins, S.A.. (2010, March – 2010, August). *President's Academy for Emerging Technologies*. \$32,000. Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency.

Faculty, staff and student awards

- Recognized Ronald Tiller as the 2011 Outstanding Alumnus for the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Tiller graduated with a B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in May 2010 at the age of 76. He began his career as a student at TTU in 1957 after being honorably discharged from the United States Army. Tiller attended TTU for more than four years and was near graduating when he was recruited for a position at John Deere. After a successful career with John Deere and Woods Equipment Company, Tiller decided to finish his college education and completed his degree 50 years after leaving TTU.
- Dr. Steve Frye was nominated for the Outstanding UNIV 1020 Teaching Award.

Community service activities

- For the third year in a row, Tennessee Tech University has been recognized for its commitment to community service by its inclusion in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, acknowledged by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This has been, in part, due to the projects coordinated through the University Service Center, such as the following:
 - The Day of Action Project with United Way (June 2010) involved 12 volunteers logging almost 50 volunteer hours in one day, making care packages for Tennessee flood victims.
 - The Tunes 4 the Troops Project (June and November of 2010 and April of 2011) provided almost 200 volunteers logging more than 850 volunteer hours within 3 different packing parties, packaging

over 250,000 CDs and DVDs to ship to our service men and women overseas.

- The Adult Computer Training Project (October and November of 2010 and April of 2011) furnished 23 volunteers logging more than 180 volunteer hours preparing for and teaching basic computer skills and programs to adults with little to no computer knowledge, conducting 4 training sessions this year and reaching almost 50 adults in 3 different counties.
 - The Fall Fun Festival Collaboration Project (Annual -September) with the University Service Center and City Scape involved 70 volunteers logging more than 310 volunteer hours building and staffing a skate park for Cookeville's annual weekend event. The University Service Center recruited enough TTU student volunteers to be able to staff the 7 inflatable activities for the event the entire weekend.
 - The Project "I Believe" (Annual - December), a collaboration project with the University Service Center, United Way and Putnam County Schools, resulted in 5 volunteers this year logging more than 50 volunteer hours; the project is designed to help provide Christmas food, coats and toys for families in need.
 - The 911 Appreciation Project (Annual - September) enlisted 6 volunteers this year logging 20 volunteer hours; this year students put food/gift packages together for local public service men and women and delivered them to each respective site.
 - The "Get Creative" MLK Day Project (January 2011) with 30 volunteers of college, high school and middle school students logging over 300 volunteer hours created anti-drug videos for Power of Putnam; a collaboration with the University Service Center, Jackson County and Overton County Anti-Drug Coalitions, and Minority Affairs.
 - Other projects and events TTU students coordinated or volunteered with:
 - Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure: 15 volunteers logging more than 75 volunteer hours
 - Flood Relief Efforts: 6 volunteers logging more than 40 volunteer hours
 - Friends of Cookeville/PC Animals' Bark in the Park: 2 volunteers logging more than 20 volunteer hours.
- The President's Academy for Emerging Technologies involved students from 14 Middle Tennessee counties including Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White. The President's Academy is a challenging, six-day program for students in grades 8 or higher and 14 to 16 years old designed to stimulate and build interest in engineering, technology, science, and mathematics. Program content is focused on emerging

technologies, including: biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and alternative energy systems.

- Partnered with Motlow State Community College (MSCC), Tennessee Technology Center at McMinnville (TTCM) and Warren County School System to conduct a career awareness day to serve approximately 500 Warren County seventh graders.
- Partnered with University Administration, Department of Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the Millard Oakley STEM Center to serve hundreds of educators, throughout the Upper Cumberland and surrounding region with the “Technology for Tomorrow’s Teachers” course, other STEM related courses and the “Classroom Spanish for Teachers” course.
- Partnered with the College of Education, Upper Cumberland School Directors’ Study Council and the Upper Cumberland Regional Office of the State Department of Education to host the following P-16 activities:
 - Building Data Capacity in Targeted Schools of the Upper Cumberland with 76 participants
 - School Law Seminar with 315 participants
 - Fall Creek Falls Educational Leadership Institute with 312 participants
 - Safe and Accountable Schools Conference with 234 participants
 - Mini-Workshops in Education with 105 participants
 - Formative Instructional Practices with 81 participants
 - TCAP Regional Training Meetings with 141 participants
- Coordinated and/or hosted other Special Events such as:
 - Highlands Career Fair with 1,373 participants
 - Calsonic and Putnam County Board of Education Virtual Field Trip with 116 participants
 - Ready for Action 2011 with 125 participants
 - Governor’s Jobs Roundtable with 60 participants
 - President’s Academy for Emerging Technologies with 36 participants
 - Rail Study Economic Impact with 13 participants
 - Social/Emotional Foundations of Early Learning with 52 participants

- TECH-REDI Planning Meeting with 32 participants
- 2010 First LEGO League Tennessee State Tournament with 450 participants
- Conducted Governor's School for Emerging Technologies, a five-week residential program for 54 high school students from across the state, in Summer 2010 through collaboration with the College of Engineering, the College of Arts & Sciences and the following partners:
 - Tennessee Department of Education
 - Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and BWXT-Y12 in Oak Ridge
 - Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in Chattanooga
 - Vanderbilt University in Nashville
 - 2010 First LEGO League Tennessee State Tournament with 450 participants
- An array of non-credit courses/programs was offered this past year for people of all ages, interests, and learning needs. Some of these are listed below.
 - Emergency Medical Courses with an annual total of 439 participants
 - Basic Arabic with 63 participants
 - Tennessee Motorcycle Riders Education Program with an annual total of 161 participants
 - Professional Resort and Quantity Food Management at Lakeside Resort & Educational Complex with a total of 28 participants
 - ACT Preparation Course with 63 participants
 - School Leaders Licensure Assessment Praxis Exam Preparation Course with 62 participants