



AUGUST 2020 COMMENCEMENT

# AUGUST COMMENCEMENT

Nine in the morning, twelve noon and  
three o'clock in the afternoon Saturday,  
August 8, 2020 Hooper Eblen Center

Welcome to the August Commencement ceremony of  
Tennessee Technological University's 2019-2020 academic  
year. Commencement is the most important ceremony in  
the life of Tennessee Tech University.

The entire Tennessee Tech community extends cordial  
greetings to parents, spouses, relatives and friends  
gathered here for this significant ceremony. We celebrate  
the success of our graduates, who have spent years of study  
to earn a Tennessee Technological University degree.

## **MORNING CEREMONY** 9:00 A.M.

College of Graduate Studies  
College of Education  
College of Interdisciplinary Studies

## **MIDDAY CEREMONY** 12:00 P.M.

College of Graduate Studies  
College of Engineering  
College of Fine Arts  
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

## **AFTERNOON CEREMONY** 3:00 P.M.

College of Graduate Studies  
College of Arts & Sciences  
College of Agriculture & Human Ecology  
College of Business

For our undergraduate and graduate students, today's  
ceremonies recognize their academic achievements  
at Tennessee Tech and inaugurate a new era in their  
careers. A single theme unites us all today — the joy of  
accomplishment!

### **IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**

If at any time during the program an emergency arises in which the building needs to be evacuated, guests seated on the floor should exit through the tunnel and cross the street to the parking lot. Those seated in the remainder of the arena should exit to the top of the concourse, vacate the building by the nearest door and proceed to any adjacent parking lot to allow for entrance of emergency vehicles.

In case of severe weather, everyone should move to the tunnel area and areas leading off the tunnel. Please remember that in any emergency situation, patience and orderliness are the keys to a safe evacuation.

# THE COLLEGES, SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Chartered in 1915, Tennessee Tech opened its doors to students in 1916. Its academic programs began with basic humanities and sciences as foundation courses for three major areas of study: agriculture, home economics and mechanical arts. The next year, students could enroll in business as a major course of study as well. By 1918, military training had been added to the curriculum.

In 1938, all the major fields of study, as well as the foundation classes, were reorganized into two main divisions – arts and sciences and professional and technical subjects—housing 11 departments. Divisions were quickly renamed "schools" and, in 1949, the expansion of the curriculum had blossomed into five schools consisting of 24 departments.

Most of today's academic programs have their roots in one of those five schools, which were redesignated "colleges" when Tennessee Tech achieved university status in 1965.

Relative newcomers to Tennessee Tech academics include the Department of Military Science (1950), the Graduate School (1958), the School of Nursing (1980), the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Extended Education (2001), the College of Interdisciplinary Studies (2012) which merged the freshly minted School of Professional Studies and School of Environmental Studies, and the new College of Fine Arts (2017).

Most degree programs at Tennessee Tech today are housed in eight colleges and one school; special programs include three centers of excellence, Honors, the Millard Oakley STEM Center and the Department of Military Science/Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

## **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY**

In 1916, agriculture and home economics were among the three disciplines considered the heart of Tennessee Tech's academic mission. Along with mechanical arts, agriculture and home economics prepared "mountain boys and girls ... for the study and solution of the problems arising out of rural community life." Today's College of Agriculture and Human Ecology reaches far beyond rural life, with coursework honing entrepreneurial, management and leadership skills in agritourism, food production and safety, dietetics, families, farming, pre-veterinary science, and design and merchandising.

## **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Then as now, the College of Arts and Sciences houses the foundation courses for all Tennessee Tech majors. Many of the same courses offered in 1916 – English, history, mathematics and sciences – quickly grew into entire departments, and by 1949, all of today's programs but earth sciences had reached department status. Today's College of Arts and Sciences is a thriving academic unit of more than 20 areas of study, with students and faculty in each discipline pursuing advanced study and research – and supporting the academic experience for all majors, regardless of discipline.

## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

Students in 1916 could enroll in only one business course, which taught students bookkeeping, business methods, typewriting and shorthand; in 1917, business had become the fourth "school"—or major vocational subject—at Tennessee Tech. By 1949, it had expanded to include departments of accounting, business and industrial management, and business education. Today's students study to become leaders through programs in business management, marketing, international business and cultures, finance, economics, accounting, business information technology, the masters in business administration and the master of accountancy. They not only study business but gain experience in practice through internships, student managed investment funds and competitions.

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

All students enrolled in undergraduate studies from 1916 on were being groomed to be teachers, but it wasn't until 1938 that teacher training was recognized as its own department. By 1949, education was named a school, encompassing general education and health and physical education. All students took "practice teaching" in their last term. Today's College of Education, the second of Tennessee Tech's units to develop doctoral studies, is a diverse unit, home to programs ranging from elementary and secondary teacher licensure to exercise science.

## **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

Called "mechanical arts" in 1916, engineering was one of three original majors at Tennessee Tech; students took courses in blacksmithing, machine assembly and drafting. The first degrees were awarded in 1937, when two civil engineering students and three general engineering students graduated. In 1968, engineering was the first academic unit on campus to develop a doctoral program. Today's College of Engineering awards more than 400 degrees annually in seven disciplines that defined Tennessee Tech as the state's only technological university.

## **COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Created in 2017, the College of Fine Arts contains nationally accredited undergraduate degree programs in art, design, fine craft, music performance and music education, which are all offered in state-of-the-art facilities, including craft studios, art education labs, concert and recital halls. The college's renowned faculty members are dedicated to hands-on, experiential learning and providing students exposure to a wide variety of fine arts professionals in the field. The college consists of the School of Art, Craft and Design and the School of Music.

## **COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

A major hurdle Tennessee Tech had to cross before reaching university status was developing a graduate studies program, which required more research facilities and more faculty with doctoral degrees. In the 1950s, the administration made a major push in that direction, establishing graduate studies in 1958. Most graduate degrees were in education; by the early 1970s, the first Ph.D.'s in engineering were awarded. Today's College of Graduate Studies administers doctoral programs in engineering, education, nursing practice, counseling and supervision and environmental sciences, as well as master's and specialist's degrees.

## **COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

One of the newest academic units, interdisciplinary studies moved Tennessee Tech into the state's online degree program in 2001, opened the door to custom-degree offerings for students interested in specialized studies not already offered by another academic unit on campus, and pioneered remote learning site coursework for distant Tennessee counties. Today's College of Interdisciplinary Studies houses the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the School of Professional Studies and the School of Environmental Studies which blends technology with the sciences, engineering and humanities.

## **WHITSON-HESTER SCHOOL OF NURSING**

In 1916, Tennessee Tech home economics majors learned the basics of caring for the sick and elderly in the home, where the vast majority of nursing took place. In 1980, the School of Nursing opened at Tennessee Tech, offering baccalaureate-level degrees to women and men with an associate's degree who were already licensed as registered nurses, as well as to students interested in a four-year university degree. Today's School of Nursing is piloting an accelerated program for professionals in other fields who have decided to switch careers and is collaborating with another institution on a joint doctoral program in nursing.

## **DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE/ARMY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)**

During World War I, a predecessor of today's Army ROTC formed at Tennessee Tech in 1917. The Department of Military Science originated at Tennessee Tech in 1950 when a senior division of Army ROTC began operation. From 1956 to 1972, all male students conducted mandatory military training in their freshman and sophomore years. In 1973, military studies opened to both men and women. Today's Army ROTC is a dynamic elective curriculum that transforms students into leaders, culminating in an Army officer commission at graduation.

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

### College of Agriculture & Human Ecology

Agriculture, B.S.AG.  
Human Ecology, B.S.HE.

### College of Arts and Sciences

Biology, B.S.  
Chemistry, B.S.  
English, B.A.  
Foreign Languages, B.A.  
Geosciences, B.S.  
History, B.A., B.S.  
Mathematics, B.S.  
Physics, B.S.  
Political Science, B.S.  
Sociology, B.S.  
Wildlife & Fisheries Science, B.S.

### College of Business

Accounting, B.S.B.A.  
Business Management, B.S.B.A.  
Economics, B.S.B.A.  
Finance, B.S.B.A.  
International Business & Cultures, B.S.  
Marketing, B.S.B.A.

### College of Education

Early Childhood Education, B.S.  
Elementary Education, B.S.  
Exercise Science, Physical Education  
& Wellness, B.S.  
Multidisciplinary Studies, B.S.  
Psychology, B.S.  
Secondary Education, B.S.ED.  
Special Education, B.S.

### College of Engineering

Chemical Engineering, B.S.CHE.  
Civil Engineering, B.S.C.E.  
Computer Engineering, B.S.CMPE.  
Computer Science, B.S.  
Electrical Engineering, B.S.E.E.  
Engineering, B.S.E.  
Engineering Technology, B.S.E.T.  
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.M.E.

### College of Fine Arts

Fine Arts, B.F.A.  
Music, B.M.

### College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Communication, B.S.

Environmental & Sustainability Studies, B.S.  
Interdisciplinary Studies, B.S.  
Professional Studies, B.S.

### Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

Nursing, B.S.N.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

### College of Arts and Sciences

Biology, M.S.  
Chemistry, M.S.  
English, M.A.  
Mathematics, M.S.

### College of Business

Accountancy, M.Acc.  
Business Administration, M.B.A.

### College of Education

Counseling & Psychology, M.A., Ed.S.  
Counseling & Supervision, Ph.D.  
Curriculum & Instruction, M.A., Ed.S.  
Exceptional Learning, Ph.D.  
Exercise Science, Physical Education  
& Wellness, M.A.  
Instructional Leadership, M.A., Ed.S.

### College of Engineering

Chemical Engineering, M.S.  
Civil Engineering, M.S.  
Computer Science, M.S.  
Electrical & Computer Engineering, M.S.  
Engineering, Ph.D.  
Engineering Management, M.S.  
Mechanical Engineering, M.S.  
Professional Science, P.S.M.

### College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Advanced Studies in Teaching  
& Learning, M.Ed.  
Environmental Sciences, Ph.D.  
Professional Science, P.S.M.  
Professional Studies, M.P.S.

### Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

Nursing, M.S.N.  
Nursing Practice, D.N.P.

### Special Programs

Army ROTC / Military Science

## A BRIEF HISTORY

In its first century, Tennessee Tech grew from a small rural school for a few hundred high school and junior college students to a doctoral-granting university with more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, and research and teaching connections throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Chartered in 1915 as Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, "Tech" opened its doors to students in September 1916. The small campus was an outgrowth of a privately owned church school, the University of Dixie, which was chartered in 1909 by a group of local business and religious leaders. Dixie College, as it was commonly known, suffered the fate of many small schools hampered by lack of funding and closed after only a few years.

Its founders, intent on offering education beyond the eighth grade to local boys and girls, negotiated an arrangement with state and local educators to create a new public school in Cookeville that would bridge the gap between the lower grades and undergraduate studies. The land and single building of Dixie College were deeded to the state and, with the pledge of funding from Putnam County, Cookeville and the state of Tennessee, re-emerged as Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (TPI). Between March of 1915 and September of 1916, two residence halls were built and a president, faculty and staff were hired. Enrollment during the first academic year, 1916-1917, was 362; students were taught by 15 faculty members, including the president.

Growth was not quick, but it was steady. High school curricula were phased out beginning in the 1920s; by 1929, the state approved a complete college program, and the first class of four-year students graduated with baccalaureate degrees that June. Instructional programs were reorganized into the divisions of arts and sciences and professional and technical subjects in 1938. Nine years later, those divisions were renamed "Schools" and by 1949, the schools had grown to five: agriculture and home economics, arts and sciences, business administration, education and engineering. Military Science was added in 1950, and the Graduate School program began in 1958.

In 1965, on its 50th anniversary, TPI gained university status and was renamed Tennessee Technological University; its existing schools were designated "colleges." More programs began: the School of Nursing in 1980 and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Extended Education in 2001. By 2012, interdisciplinary studies had merged with new schools of professional studies and environmental sciences to become the College of Interdisciplinary Studies. The College of Fine Arts was established in 2017.

Today's students are taught by more than 400 faculty housed in eight colleges, one school and three centers of excellence. Programs of study are accredited by national agencies. A maturing advancement division ensures that university operations are not limited by annual state funding allocations. Today's administration has charted a course with as much, if not more, resolve and determination as its forbears displayed more than 100 years ago.

# THE PRESIDENTS

Thomas Alva Early.....	1916-1920
Quentin Miller Smith.....	1920-1938
Austin Wheeler Smith, Jr. (interim).....	1926-1927, Fall 1940
James Millard Smith.....	1938-1940
William Everett Derryberry.....	1940-1974
Arliss Lloyd Roaden.....	1974-1985
Wallace Samuel Prescott.....	1985-1987
Angelo Anthony Volpe.....	1987-2000
Robert R. Bell.....	2000-2012
Philip B. Oldham.....	2012-present

## FORMAL ELEMENTS OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The commencement of a program of academic study in higher education is a formal recognition of this exceptional achievement. Many of the traditions date back to medieval times, evidence that higher learning has been revered in most civilizations during two millennia.

### REGALIA

Academic ceremonial garments and ornaments, or regalia, have evolved from the attire of students and monks in medieval churches, the greatest centers of learning in the Western world. Caps, hoods and gowns are symbolic of scholarly devotion and the decisive role of education in the development of civilization.

In time, academicians began to adopt symbols unique to their individual universities—much like the medieval system of classic heraldry, in which chivalric orders were identified by coats of arms, ornamental trappings and colorful patterns. The design of gowns, caps and hoods symbolize the institution, field of learning and type of degree earned.

While black is the customary color of robes, caps and gowns, some universities have chosen distinctive colors for the attire. Tennessee Tech adopted its school colors for the regalia beginning with the centennial academic year, 2015-2016. Gowns and mortarboards are purple with gold insignia and tassels.





## THE CEREMONIAL MACE

Modeled after royal staffs carried by messengers and soldiers, the mace was adopted as an academic symbol by universities in the Middle Ages. Usually carried by a faculty marshal at the head of the processional, the mace represents academic dignity and the authority of the university to confer degrees.

The Tennessee Tech mace was designed and made by a former director of the university's Appalachian Center for Craft, Alf Ward, an accomplished silversmith. Constructed of sterling silver and gold and purple heart, the mace is 45 inches in length. Its wooden blade-like stem is overlaid with engraved silver and embossed with gold floral decoration. The stem contains pierced and embossed golden eagles and supports an engraved silver cup. The cup has two gold discs symbolizing the heraldic devices of the university and is covered by a gold grill capped with a golden eagle.

## THE CEREMONIAL GONFALONS

Banners representing the university and each of its colleges and schools, or gonfalons, are intended to identify each academic unit with its unique culture and spirit. Another relic of medieval times, today's gonfalon occupies a special place in the trappings of academic ceremony. Carried individually at the head of each college or school in the processional, the gonfalons are then displayed side-by-side on the ceremonial platform facing degree candidates, alongside the university gonfalon, which bears the Tennessee Tech colors, charter date and presidential seal.

## **THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION**

A medallion or seal of office, once used to mark documents as official, is now considered a mark of authority. Tennessee Tech's presidential medallion was designed by then-President Everett Derryberry and sculptor Hans Prehn.

The medallion or silver disc is inscribed with the name of the university, its charter date, 1915, a "T" representing Tennessee Tech, the book of knowledge, the lamp of learning and an outline of the state of Tennessee with a star indicating the geographical position of Cookeville and the university. On the reverse side is a golden eagle and the date 1965, the year Tennessee Tech reached university status. Small silver plates bear the names of past presidents, while the name of the current president is engraved on a larger plate over the medallion.

## **THE TECH HYMN**

Joan Derryberry, a concert pianist and member of the music faculty, composed the Tennessee Tech Hymn in 1943, just three years into her time here as first lady.

The song illustrates the beauty of the campus and its setting and is a pledge of loyalty, love and service from students, faculty and staff. It is sung at large gatherings of the university, including commencements, convocations and ball games. The music appears on the back of this program.

## **THE TECH FLAG**

Another first lady, Gloria Bell, designed the Tennessee Tech flag in 2003 in honor of the university's most familiar and long-standing traditions. The three main elements of the flag represent the university's historic and idyllic characteristics, as well as reputation for quality.

The magnificent golden eagle, with wings outstretched, depicts the pride, honor, strength and spirit of students, faculty and staff. The column of gold represents the pillar of knowledge, intellect and experience—all qualities of the university's prestigious academics. A base of majestic purple represents the strong foundation of character, commitment and endurance indicative of the university culture.

## **STUDENT VETERANS**

Tennessee Tech University recognizes veterans and current military members for their service to our country and their excellence in higher education. The red, white and blue cords, worn voluntarily by a select few, represent their veteran status while pursuing their educational goals.

Tennessee Tech proudly honors these student-veterans by presenting them with these cords to signify their achievement on this day.

# RANDY PORTER

*Putnam County Mayor*



Randy Porter is the county mayor for Putnam County. As Putnam County Mayor since 2014, Porter brings 38 years of leadership and technical experience to Putnam County. He began working for Putnam County in 1980 as a paramedic. In 1983, he was promoted to Emergency Medical Services/911 Director and served in that capacity for 30 years. During that same time frame, he also served stints as county coroner, infectious disease program administrator and technology director.

In his position as county mayor, Porter serves on many local and regional boards including: Upper Cumberland Regional Airport Authority, Upper Cumberland Development District, UCHRA, Upper Cumberland Family Justice Center, Joint Economic and Community Development, Cookeville CityScape, Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) for Upper Cumberland Region Work Force Development.

Porter is committed to making Putnam County the strongest and best it can be. Since taking office in 2014, Putnam County has seen major growth with over 3,500 new jobs, multiple new international and national companies moving here, along with major retail expansion including the new \$50 million Shoppes at Eagle Point. Additionally, the county experienced a residential building boom with over 700 new homes being built between 2015 and 2018.

Porter, a longtime resident of Putnam County, has two associate degrees, one in business administration and the other in applied science (paramedic) from Volunteer State Community College, with extended studies in business at Tennessee Tech University. He is a certified public administrator and is working on being the first mayor in Tennessee to receive the new state financial officer certification.

# RICKY SHELTON

*Cookeville Mayor*



Ricky Shelton, mayor of the city of Cookeville, has extensive experience in the public service arena; as he served two consecutive terms as a Cookeville city councilman from 2002-2010 before being elected mayor in 2014. Shelton serves on numerous boards and commissions in his capacity as mayor, including Cookeville Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees, the Upper Cumberland Development District, the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport Authority, the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, Putnam County 911 Board, the Upper Cumberland Family Justice Center Board, as well as Vice Chairman of the Joint Economic and Community Development Board Executive Committee.

While he is committed to leadership, one of his main goals is economic development, including economic growth, job creation and infrastructure. Community and quality of life are both priorities to Shelton as well. He is passionate about Cookeville and the many things that contribute to quality of life for residents, such as public safety, education, parks, healthcare, outreach and historical efforts. Fulfilling a campaign promise, Mayor Shelton began and organized two new community festivals that have quickly become the premier events in Cookeville. Red White & BOOM Fourth of July Celebration and Christmas in the Park/ Downtown Ice have been enjoyed by thousands of people!

Shelton, a Cookeville native and lifelong resident, attended Cookeville High School and graduated from Tennessee Tech University in 1985 with a degree in business and marketing. Shelton joined AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in 2007 and currently works as a diabetes sales specialist with the company throughout middle and east Tennessee. He is also an avid sports enthusiast, and shows his support for local programs, including Cookeville High School, the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, as well his dedication to the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

# THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

## AUGUST 8, 2020

Presiding.....	Dr. Philip B. Oldham President
*Invocation .....	Dr. Robert Owens Interim Vice President, Student Affairs
Address to Graduates .....	President Oldham
Special Greeting .....	Governor Bill Lee
Special Message .....	Mason Hilliard
Featured Addresses.....	Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter and Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton
Special Song Performance, "Tennessee Strong" .....	Jake Hoot
Recognition of Faculty .....	President Oldham
Recognition of Graduates' Families.....	President Oldham
Presentation of Academic Deans .....	Dr. Lori Bruce Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Conferring of Degrees.....	President Oldham
"The Tennessee Tech Hymn" .....	written by Joan Derryberry, Performed by Shiann Sigmon, Communication Student
Closing Remarks.....	President Oldham
*Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	
<b>9:00 a.m. Ceremony</b>	
College of Graduate Studies.....	Senior Associate Provost Mark Stephens
College of Education.....	Dean Lisa Zagumny
College of Interdisciplinary Studies.....	Dean Mike Gotcher
<b>12:00 p.m. Ceremony</b>	
College of Graduate Studies.....	Senior Associate Provost Mark Stephens
College of Engineering .....	Dean Joseph Slater
College of Fine Arts.....	Dean Jennifer Shank
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing .....	Dean Kimberly Hanna
<b>3:00 p.m. Ceremony</b>	
College of Graduate Studies.....	Senior Associate Provost Mark Stephens
College of Arts & Sciences .....	Dean Paul Semmes
College of Agriculture & Human Ecology .....	Dean Darron Smith
College of Business.....	Dean Tom Payne

\* After walking across the stage and receiving their degrees, graduates are encouraged to exit the arena floor.

# DEGREE CANDIDATES AUGUST 2020

Because of circumstances which require that the list of names be furnished to the printer in final form approximately seven days prior to Commencement, it is possible that one or more of the candidates listed may have been unable to complete all requirements for the degree or may have elected voluntarily to register for additional work and to graduate at a subsequent ceremony. The change does not necessarily imply that a student has failed nor does it commit the university to grant a diploma to a person thus listed in error. Also, students listed with one or more honors distinctions are candidates for the honor(s) at the time the program is provided to the printer, and may not complete the requirements to be awarded the distinction.

Graduates are grouped by college. Individual names will be called by order seated, not in alphabetical order.

## COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Cephas Nii Ablakwa, Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "Changes in Students' Higher Education Aspirations and Enrollment in Postsecondary Institutions"

**Advisor:** Dr. David Larimore

Moatez Mohammed Alhassan, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Seismic Performance Assessment of Special Braced and Unbraced Structural Systems with the Incorporation of Foundation Flexibility"

**Advisors:** Dr. Daniel VandenBerge and Dr. Timothy Huff

Ashley Nastasia Allred, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Integral-Spectral Methods: Fundamental Principles and Selected Applications to Healthcare (Cancerous Tumor Treatment, Dialysis, and Electro-Kinetic Hydrodynamics in Kidney Treatment) and Related Pedagogical Aspects"

**Advisor:** Dr. Pedro Arce

Bo Bonning, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Mechanical Analysis and Predictions of Properties for Polymer Materials at Cryogenic Temperatures"

**Advisor:** Dr. Holly A. Stretz

Brandon England, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Real-Time Multiple Load Monitoring and Control Infrastructure and its Application to Improving Thevenin Estimates for Stability Monitoring of Smart Grid Areas"

**Advisor:** Dr. Ali T Alouani

Laura Hendrix Ezell, Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "Finding Future Ready: One School Librarian's Lived Experience of a Framework"

**Advisor:** Dr. Julie C. Baker

Sheikh Rabiul Islam, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Domain Knowledge Aided Explainable Artificial Intelligence"

**Advisor:** Dr. William Eberle

A H M Jakaria, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Formal Techniques for Automated Design of Adaptive Networked Systems Based on Security and Resiliency Requirements"

**Advisor:** Dr. Ambareen Siraj

Qinghua Lin, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Non-Uniform Combustion Control and Configuration Design for Lean Gasoline Aftertreatment System"

**Advisor:** Dr. Pinggen Chen

Grace McClellan, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Microbial Community Structural and Functional Response to Optimization of a Water Resource Recovery Facility for Nutrient Removal"

**Advisor:** Dr. Tania Datta

Koteswara Rao Medidhi, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Structural and Thermo-Mechanical Properties of Polymer Nanocomposites"

**Advisor:** Dr. Venkat Padmanabhan

Mahdi Mohammadzadeh, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Mechanical and Thermal Analyses of Automotive Components Manufactured with 3D Printed Continuous Fiber Reinforced Thermoplastic Polymers"

**Advisor:** Dr. Ismail Fidan

Juliet Ohemeng-Ntiamoah, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Anaerobic Co-Digestion of Waste Activation Sludge With Food Waste and Fats, Oils, and Grease: Effects on Digester Performance, Microbial Community Structure and Activity"

**Advisor:** Dr. Tania Datta

Ramesh Paudel, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Efficient Graph Knowledge Discovery on Graph Streams with Concept Drift"

**Advisor:** Dr. William Eberle

Ciara Desiree Pittman, Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "On The Geometric Mean of the Number-of-Divisors and Sum-of-Divisors Functions"

**Advisor:** Dr. Janet K. Isbell & Dr. Amber Spears

Kyle Wayne Shanks, Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "Machine Learning and Critical Thinking: Applying Machine Learning Algorithms to the Scoring of the Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT)"

**Advisor:** Dr. Barry Stein

Yutian Yu, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "The Performance of Spinel-Based Interconnect Coating and Contact Layer for SOFC Cathode-Side Application"

**Advisor:** Dr. Jiahong Zhu

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREES

Kassie J. Barnes, Nursing

**Project Title:** "Implementation of an Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening Instrument in Pediatric Primary Care"

**Advisor:** Dr. Bedelia Russell

Kyli Whitehead, Nursing

**Project Title:** "Improving Pediatric Autism Screening in the Primary Care Setting"

**Advisor:** Dr. Bedelia Russell

## SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREES

Amber Sullivan Ashworth, Instructional Leadership

Lauren Shea Brown, Instructional Leadership

Frederick Willis Burnette, Instructional Leadership

Susan Capron, Curriculum & Instruction

Jessica C. Childers, Instructional Leadership

Monica L. Dunnagan, Instructional Leadership

Mary Margaret Gordon, Instructional Leadership

Merry Faye-Byrd Greer, Curriculum & Instruction

Brittany King-Shannon, Curriculum & Instruction

Lacy Jeday Loggins, Instructional Leadership

Benjamin Allen Novak, Instructional Leadership

Rebecca Lauren Odum, Instructional Leadership

Robert William Paxton, Instructional Leadership

Tiffany Leahann Smith, Instructional Leadership

Brian Allen Turner, Curriculum & Instruction

Franklin Jamar Willis, Instructional Leadership

## MASTER'S DEGREES

Elizabeth L. Acuff, Business Administration

Godson Ebenezer Adjovu, Civil Engineering

Kevin Wayne Akard, Business Administration

Forrest Trey Allard, Business Administration

Sarah Elizabeth Allen, Business Administration

Wesam Abdelrahman Mohammad Al Amiri,

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Christina D. Anderson, Accountancy

Samia Rachel Anderson, English

Gustavo Alonso Angeles Davila, Computer Science

Keely Shae Apple, Accountancy

Lucas Austin Auld, Civil Engineering

Christian James Bare, Computer Science

Emily Jane Bass, Curriculum & Instruction

Brandi Rene' Billingsley, Curriculum & Instruction

Bailey Christian Blair, Business Administration

Jason Boling, Business Administration

Allison Kate Boshears, Exercise Science,

Physical Education and Wellness

Sara E. Bowman, Business Administration

Benjamin F. Brandt, Mechanical Engineering

Jenna E. Brent, Business Administration  
Samuel Michael Briscoe, Business Administration  
Loreen Martin Broderick,  
Counseling and Psychology  
Matthew Peter Brown, Curriculum & Instruction  
Corrin Nicole Brown, Counseling and Psychology  
Kristin Rebecca Brown, Curriculum & Instruction  
Ayla Breiona Bryant, Business Administration  
Kelsi Lynn Buck, Counseling and Psychology  
Sarah Emily Bumbalough,  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Rachel Ellen Burgess, Curriculum & Instruction  
Margaret Anne Burton, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education and Wellness  
Alex Wayne Butaud, Professional Studies  
Jacob Ryan Buttram, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education and Wellness  
Amanda Leigh Byrd, Business Administration  
William N. Byrum, Business Administration  
Sarah Beth Cain, Chemical Engineering  
Tiffany Renee Campbell, Professional Studies  
Joseph Patrick Cannon, Professional Studies  
Ciarra Rachele Cantrell, Nursing  
Rebecca Marie Carter, Counseling and Psychology  
Kristen N. Carter, Chemistry  
Amanda Cauley, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education and Wellness  
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Justin Davis Murphy  
Holden Grant Myatt  
James Dalton Myers\*  
Jeffrey S. Neikirk Jr.\*\*\*  
John Philip Nelms\*\*  
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Miles C. Nevills\*  
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Bradley Alan Northern  
Spencer Scott Odom  
Samuel Wesley Ogle  
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Dominic Martin Pacia  
Rafael Pallares Delgado  
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James M. Paris  
Dalton Scott Parker  
Stephanie G. Parnell  
Cody L. Parson  
Atish J. Patel  
Jignesh N. Patel  
Ujashkumar Patel  
Mark Austin Patrick  
Kristen Haley Patterson  
Ryan J. Patterson\*\*\* †  
Adriana Del Rocio Peinado  
Ryan A. Phillips  
Eldon Labrone Posey  
Caleb R. Powers\*\*\*  
Casey Lynn Price\*\*\*  
Courtney S. Price  
Joseph Clark Price  
Mackenzie Jane Pugh\*\*  
Jacob Seth Ramaker  
Mario Alberto Renteria Aldana  
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Justin William Richard  
Anceito A. Rivera  
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John Robert Schlabach  
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Abigail Caroline Shores  
Salvador Ambrosio Silva Durruty  
John Gabriel Simmons\*\*\*  
Jeffrey Blake Simpson  
Christopher Michael Sipe

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Justin Thomas Slinger  
Blake Edward Smith  
Christopher Lee Smith\*\*\* † †  
John P. Smith  
Abhijeet Solanki  
Gerges Nashat Sondi\*\*  
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Jonathan Andrew Gerdom\*\*  
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Georgia Jeanette Dorothea Cross\*  
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Garrett James Harper  
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Ethan Henry McDaniel  
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Rebecca Joy Singletary\*\*\*  
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Emily K. Billbrey\*  
Rachel Elizabeth Blow\*  
Elizabeth Gwen Bossong\*\*  
Rachel McKenzie Bryson\*  
Skyler M. Burris\*\*  
Donald Austin Butler  
Emily Elizabeth Byrum\* †  
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Dakota Lanay Carter  
Rachael Marie Christian  
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Carly Leighann Cole\*\*  
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Lee E. Collins\*\*  
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Jayna Kate Ferrell\*  
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Marley Brooke Hartman\*\*\*  
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Jillian Leigh Iwanyszyn  
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Madelyn McKinley Richard\*\*  
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Jordan Seth Bobby Allen  
Ahmed Salem Almazrouei  
Mohammed Ali Khalfan Ali Alnuaimi  
Khalid Malek Al-Omary\*\*  
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Derek C. Anderson\*  
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Demiana N. Attallah\*  
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Mitchel Jace Bolix\*\*  
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Martin Cole Brown  
Michael Duane Browning  
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Victoria L. Buck  
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Jamie S. Burnette  
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Sarah Elizabeth Menoza  
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Kaitlin Morgan Walker

Lily Ann Walls  
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Alexis Ann Weber\*  
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Kaitlyn Leann Wilbanks\*\*\*  
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Christian Storm Williams  
Jacob R. Winton  
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Anthony Clay Carnahan  
Brandon James Carter  
Brianah P. Castleberry\*\*  
Kassee Dee Christian  
Susanna Elizabeth Clouse  
Ty Austin Cloyd  
Jedediah Dewayne Coley  
Chad Alan Connors  
Kade G. Copeland  
Jamie Lynn Crawford  
Hallie Renee Davis\*  
Grayson Lane DeLay  
Kortni A. Ferraro\*\* †  
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Jasmine Lynnette Gunter  
Will Ryan Henry\*\*\* ‡  
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Dillon S. Hughes  
Steven Michael Hunt  
Cole Allen Johnson  
Harley Jade Johnson\*\*\*  
Blake R. Jones  
Christian Leigh Jones  
Kristi L. Jones  
Kendall L. Malone  
Isaac Austin Martin  
Nicholas Waggoner Meador  
Addison McCall Newman

Latisha Ann Nugent  
Matthew David Parker  
Caleb Anthony Phillips  
David Clay Price  
Brett Anthony Riggs  
Allison Page Rison  
Rachael Helen Schulze  
Neylan Hillman Spivey  
Mahaliah Rae Ann Stults\*  
Joshua Quinn Templeton  
Emily Marie Vanosdale  
Mitchell Woodlee  
William John Wright

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Jordyn Hailea Blackwood\*\*  
Kiara Monique Blain  
Abby Corin Bohannon\*\*\*  
Makayla Brunette\*\*  
Rachel Suanne Cain  
Hailee J. Cantrell  
Faith Elizabeth Cisney\*  
Jordan B. Delight\*  
Sydney N. Elrod\*\*  
Allie Marie Fly  
Tommi Alexandra Halcomb  
Makala Ann Hooten\*  
Katie L. Hoskins  
Kayla Monet Hotaling\*\*\*  
Emily Renee Landrum\*\*\*  
Mary Grace Lee\*\*  
Alyssa Ingrid Lewin  
Tammy Delyn Long  
Savanah L. Medlock\*\*

Brittany Reagan Mott\*\*  
Kelsey E. Mullins  
Sarah Lucia Nicolette  
Shannon Leigh Nuttall  
Jacob C. Parham  
Hannah Nicole Petty  
Caleb Shawn Phillips\*  
Anna Grace Pursley\*\*  
Emily Katherine Reynolds

Sydney J. Stringer  
Pamela Madison Brooke Todd  
Lucas J. Tosh  
Julia Christine Vesely\*\*  
Alicia M. West  
Jacob Scott Williams  
Mackenzie M. Williams  
Brian Casey Wilson

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Robert Wayne Agee  
Saif Rashed Naseeb Mohamed Alefari  
Abdulla Ali Mohammed Alnuaimi  
Salem Juma Salem Alrashdi  
Saeed Awad Abdulla Alshamsi  
Cari L Anderson  
Hunter James Anderson  
Wesley Matthew Austin  
Sarah Nicole Barnes  
Jesse L. Baugus  
Quinn Roberto Baylosis  
Christian James Bell  
Michael Craig Berger  
Brandon Alexander Bernard  
Breanna L. Bilbrey  
Katie Nicole Bilbrey\*\*  
Michaela Catherine Blueeyes-Begay  
Benjamin Randall Bostic  
Jordyn Renee Branson  
Hannah Elise Bratton\*\*  
Hayden Thomas Brecht  
Tanner Jared Breeding  
Adam Lee Brock  
William C. Browning  
Christopher Allen Burkhart  
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Aubree Renee Cahill  
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Brittany Nicole Chappell  
Larry J. Choate\*  
Brittany Morgan Collis

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Mallory Anne Cravens\*  
Sawyer Nash Curevich\*\*  
Brandon Ray Darnell\*\*\*  
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Derrick Ryan Davis  
Taylor M. Davis  
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Alysa R. Dickerson  
John Michael Donnell  
Rebecca D. Duke  
Casey Michael Durand  
William James Edgington\*\*  
Emery Eldridge-Goss  
Tanya Miyuki Eller  
Barbara Jo Elmore\*\*  
Noah S. Elorfi  
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Chad J. Evener  
Jake T. Farley\*\*\* † ‡  
Amelia Elise Farris\*\*\*  
Spencer Odell Flueallen  
Robert Dewayne Ford  
Taylor James Foutch  
Taylor Wehnt Fugate  
William Colton Gaines  
Maria Isabel Garcia  
Hannah Riley Glover\*\*  
Leslie A. Golden  
Jordan P. Graham\*  
Allie Regan Guinn\*\*\* † ‡  
Andrew Maxwell Gunter  
Evan Gregory Gunther  
Emily Ann Haley  
Jeremiah Daniel Hall  
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George H. Hanna  
Cain Wesley Hawkins  
Ashley Carolyn Haynes  
Robert Wyatt Hill  
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Parker Dale Hodges\*  
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Alexander Malcolm Hursey  
Keondra Neshell Hyde  
Morgan Ciara Jackson  
Morgan Diane Johnson  
Christopher C. Jones  
Ryan Justin Jones  
Jude Stuart Kaney\*\*  
Brock Lewis Keller  
Alexa Hope Kingree  
Torrey Kegan Kirby  
Erin Elizabeth Kirk  
Carolyn Nichole Knox  
Madison Kreatschman  
Devon Robert Kucker  
Emily Morgan Larue\*\*  
Guthrie D. Lattanzi  
Jason Matthew Lee  
Cody Michael Littlejohn  
Cody Michael Littlejohn  
Ansh Anil Luthra  
Wesley G. Manning  
Samuel Heath Mansell  
Kyle R. Maples  
Anna Leigh Martin\*  
Camelia Ann Martin  
Destiny LRae Mayes\*  
Kelsie Loftis McClain  
Holly Renee McCollum  
Elizabeth Anne McCulley  
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Madison G McDonald  
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Brian Thomas Schreiber  
Katana Shannel Seal  
Charles Wayland Seals  
Heather Kay Seymour\*  
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Corey Whitt Shelton  
Danielle LeeAnn Shepherd  
Benard Kipngetchi Sigei  
James Thomas Sisco  
Elizabeth Canja Smith  
Isaac Lane Smith  
Mason D. Smith  
Caitlin A. Spry  
Kyle L. Stevens  
Leah Rose Stipelcovich Ms  
Joseph Parker Stockton



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Dalton A. Teeple  
Camie Grace Threet  
Benjamin Charles Tollett  
Brandon Caleb Townsend\*\*  
Halee Jordan Tucker\*\*\*  
Kalie R. Turner  
Kyra Nicole Tyler  
Edrich Volny  
Jay Ezell Walker  
Russell Tyler Watson

Dalyssa Charling Maodie Webb\*\*  
Bradley Noah Weinstein  
Mackensie Danielle Williams  
Sarah Tyler Williams  
Elizabeth Marie Willmore  
Lauren McKaye Wilson  
Lindsey R. Wilson  
Nicholas Graham Wilson  
Cameron Matthew Yeary\*\*  
Nathaniel David Zelig  
Joshua Ward Zeller

# Student who graduated previously or anticipates graduating at a later ceremony.

### **COMMENCEMENT HONORS FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS**

*cum laude	3.5 to 3.69 grade point average
**magna cum laude	3.7 to 3.89 grade point average
***summa cum laude	3.9 to 4.00 grade point average
‡ W. A. Howard Award	4.00 grade point average
† in cursu honorum	22 hours of honors courses and a 3.5 or > grade point average

Candidates are recognized in this program if their grades qualified them for honors at the time this listing was prepared for the printers. All who anticipate graduating with honors will be recognized during the ceremony and the final honor achieved will be recorded on their diploma and on their academic transcript.

# EMERITI FACULTY

Tennessee Technological University is honored to recognize these individuals who made enduring contributions to the university during their years of service on the faculty.

Rafal Ablamowicz  
Marvin Adkins  
Suellen Alfred  
Joseph N. Anderson  
Lois Anderson  
Hollings T. Andrews  
Jack Armistead  
Sue Bailey  
Thurston Banks  
Bonita Barger  
Marvin W. Barker  
LeBron Bell  
Robert R. Bell  
Sharon G. Berk  
Phillip Bettoli  
William Paul Bonner  
Howard Brahmstedt  
Janice Branson  
Robert Briggs  
William Brinker  
Evelyn Brown  
Virginia L. Brown  
Frank Bulow  
Karen Burdette  
John Burnham  
George Burns  
Rafael Bustamante  
Ben Byler  
Phillip Campana  
Graham Campbell  
Rodney L. Carlson  
Pritindra Chowdhuri  
Larry Click  
Robert Coogan  
Frances Crawford  
Orville Crowell  
Cathy Cunningham  
Corinne Darvennes  
Helen Deese  
Subramaniam  
Deivanayagam  
Nicholas Demas  
W. Calvin Dickinson  
Edmond Dixon  
Ward Doubet  
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Susan Elkins

Francis E. Elliott  
Dale Ensor  
O.T. Estes  
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Linda Ferreira  
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Rhonda Folio  
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Thomas Furtsch  
Dennis George  
Sidney Gilbreath  
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John A. Gordon  
Susan Gore  
Susan Goss  
Frances Gragg  
Ed Griggs  
Roger L. Haggard  
Sang Han  
John Harris  
John Harwood  
Walter L. Helton  
Joseph Hermann  
Charles Hickman  
Danny Higdon  
W.D. Holland  
Walter Kelly Hood  
J. Richard Houghton  
David Hume  
Ken Hunter  
Barbara Jackson  
Elouise Jackson  
Robert E. Jager  
Wanda Jared  
Wayne Johnson  
Jon Jonakin  
Pat Jordan  
Ray Jordan  
Frederick Kennedy  
Clayton Kerr  
Wali Kharif  
S.B. Khleif  
Russell Kick  
Kenneth E. Kintz

Eugene Kline  
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Leland Long  
Henry W. Mannle  
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Leo McGee  
Murdo William McRae  
Hugh Mills  
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Lizabeth Mullens  
Sastry Munukutla  
David Narrie  
Sundaram Natarajan  
Jerome Neapolitan  
Harvey Neufeldt  
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Margaret Phelps  
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Flavious Smith  
Harry T. Smith  
James Smith  
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Gretta Stanger  
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Gail Stearman  
Stephen Stedman  
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Hugh Hix Stubblefield  
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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Gunnels Florist, which provided the plants and flowers for today's graduation ceremony. Gunnels Florist has been proudly serving the Cookeville area since 1953 and is committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly and prompt.



Gunnels Florist staff members are featured left to right: Jan Thompson, Nikki Patterson, Diane Carter, Angela Lewis, Rosemary Andrews, Bobbie Wyatt, Ronnie Reels, April Davis, Jessica Burgess and Reba Henley.

## Contact Us

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Our photographers are capturing the close ups of your grad's big achievement.

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# The Tennessee Tech Hymn

words and music by  
Mrs. EVERETT DERRYBERRY



The qui - et hills stand stead - fast 'round walls of rus - set  
Deep pur - ple stand the moun - tains and gold - en sets the



brown.— On halls se - rene and camp - us green the  
sun.— We proud - ly wear these col - ors fair un



smok - y hills look down;— And stead - fast may I  
til our goal is won;— We pledge thee faith - ful



cher - ish what thou hast giv'n to me.— Oh  
ser - vice, our love and loy - al - ty.— Oh



Al - ma Ma - ter Ten - nes - see Tech, — God pros - per thee.  
Al - ma Ma - ter Ten - nes - see Tech, — God pros - per thee.—



**Tennessee**  
TECH