

FALL COMMENCEMENT

Nine o'clock in the morning and two o'clock in the afternoon Friday, December 8, 2023 Hooper Eblen Center

Welcome to the Fall Commencement ceremony of Tennessee Technological University's 2023-2024 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.

9:00 A.M. CEREMONY

College of Graduate Studies College of Agriculture & Human Ecology College of Business College of Engineering College of Fine Arts

2:00 P.M. CEREMONY

College of Graduate Studies
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Education
College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

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.

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	
Austin Wheeler Smith, Jr. (interim)	
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 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.

THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM DECEMBER 8, 2023 9:00 A.M. CEREMONY

Presiding				
Invocation				
National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Faith Manganaro, accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis				
Address to GraduatesPresident Oldham				
Special Greeting				
Special Message				
Special Address				
Recognition of Faculty President Oldham				
Recognition of Graduates' FamiliesPresident Oldham				
Presentation of Academic Deans				
Conferring of Degrees				
"The Tennessee Tech Hymn"				
Closing RemarksPresident Oldham				
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees				
College of Graduate Studies				

DEGREE CANDIDATES FALL 2023

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

Adewale Akinola Adeyemo, Engineering #
Dissertation Title: "Towards Securing Edge
Intelligence for Inference in Horizontal Collaborative
Environments"

Advisor: Dr. Syed Hasan

Suhas Suryakant Alkunte, Engineering
Dissertation Title: "Mechanical Characterization of
Functionally Graded Materials Produced by Material
Extrusion Process"

Advisor: Dr. Ismail Fidan

Rima Linda Asmar Awad, Engineering #
Dissertation Title: "Automated Volatile Memory
Forensics for Programmable Logic Controllers"
Advisor: Dr. Mike Rogers

Katherine Elizabeth Brown, Engineering #
Dissertation Title: "Evaluating, Explaining, and
Utilizing Model Uncertainty in High-Performing,
Opaque Machine Learning Models"
Advisor: Dr. Doug Talbert

Chikezie Meshak Emeghara, Engineering
Dissertation Title: "Modeling and Control of InverterBased Resources for Grid Applications"
Advisor: Dr. Satish Mahajan

Orkhan Huseynov, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Thermal Characterization and Numerical Analysis of Short Carbon Fiber Reinforced Composite Parts Manufactured by Material Extrusion" Advisor: Dr. Ismail Fidan Saanyol Ityokumbul Igbax, Engineering # **Dissertation Title:** "Optimization of Biodiesel Production Using Ultrasound and Electrostatic Separation"

Advisors: Dr. Stephen Idem & Dr. Dan Swartling

Md Shariful Islam, Engineering #
Dissertation Title: "Properties and Optimization of Zeolite Modified Cementitious Materials"

Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Mohr

Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Khan Mamun, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "An Innovative Multimodal Bio-Signal Fusion with Hybrid Deep Learning Techniques for the Development of a Non-Invasive Cuffless Blood Pressure Monitoring System and a Heart Disease Detection Algorithm"

Advisor: Dr. Tarek Elfouly

Rajesh Manicavasagam, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Identifying and Detecting Network Indicators of Compromise (IoCs) for Demand Response Programs"

Advisor: Dr. Mike Rogers

Md. Golam Moula Mehedi Hasan, Engineering #
Dissertation Title: "Targeted Generation of
Counterfactual Examples for Data Augmentation and
to Mitigate the Rashomon Effect"
Advisor: Dr. Doug Talbert

M. Rayhan Ahmed Mithu, Engineering #
Dissertation Title: "Incorporating a Knowledge
Base into Machine Learning Techniques for Forensic
Analysis of Control Systems"
Advisor: Dr. Mike Rogers

Marshall Alexander Norris, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "A Study of Rheology, Parameter Optimization, and Microstructural Analysis of Metallic Paste Used for Material Extrusion"

Advisor: Dr. Ismail Fidan

Reza Nouri, Engineering #

Dissertation Title: "The Need to Go Deeper: The Employment of a Convolutional Neural Network to Analyze Turbulent Flows Frequency Content"

Advisor: Dr. Ahmad Vaselbehagh

Sushil Poudel, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Securing Front-End Vehicle-to-Grid Communications: Malware Attacks and Defense Strategies in Public EV Charging Stations"

Advisor: Dr. Muhammad Ismail

Vinit Vinayak Prabhu, Engineering #

Dissertation Title: "Enhanced Thermal Energy Storage and Transfer for Industry"

Advisor: Dr. Ethan Languri

Mithila Chandrasen Rajeshirke, Engineering
Dissertation Title: "Fatigue Analysis of Additively
Manufactured Short Carbon Fiber-Reinforced PETG
Components"

Advisor: Dr. Ismail Fidan

MASTER'S DEGREES

Sharanya Deshpande Aavunoori, Computer Science #

Kara Elizabeth Agee, Business Administration Bryson Stuart Austin, Mechanical Engineering Joshua Lolonyo Korku Avornyo,

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Elena Becker, Computer Science

Melissa Ann Beckett, Accountancy #

Robert Bryce Beeler, Business Administration # Zack Nicholas Bikakis.

Electrical and Computer Engineering Barrett Jackson Blakely, Business Administration Tymothy Joseph Brandel, Computer Science

Matthew S. Brotherton, Computer Science

Dawson Michael Buchanan,

Business Administration #

Trey Mitchell Burks, Computer Science Joshua James Burns, Business Administration

Meagan Burtch, Chemical Engineering
David E. Campbell, Business Administration #

Macy Kaye Carter, Business Administration

 $William\ Robert\ Cecil,\ Business\ Administration$

Melanney B. Chapman, Accountancy #

Pamela Chaudhury, Business Administration Stephen Michael Close,

Engineering Management #

Emily Victoria Collins, Business Administration #
Andrew Keith Crouch. Business Administration #

Andrew Keith Crouch, Business Administration #
Ethan Russell Crowder. Business Administration #

William Blake Daniels, Business Administration #

Joji Jeevan Kumar Dasari, Mechanical Engineering

Kail E. Dava, Business Administration

Blake Hunter Dickenson, Accountancy

Chase A. Dorris, Accountancy #

Griffin Dove, Business Administration #

Noah T. Duncan, Business Administration John Pierson Dyer, Business Administration #

Chijioke Cyriacus Ekechi, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Abigail Clare Farris,

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Joseph C. Foust, Business Administration

Nathaniel Allen Fulner, Accountancy #

Jacob W. Gable, Computer Science

Austin John Good, Engineering Management

Andrew Timothy Gothard, Mechanical Engineering Elena Delucca Gregory, Engineering Management #

Justin Newman Grossarth,

Business Administration #
Juan Elias Grubert, Business Administration

Catherine Ann Hawkins, Business Administration #

Haley Brook Helton, Business Administration

Dusty W. Henson, Business Administration

Bryce William Hodge, Business Administration

Rebekah K. Holder, Accountancy #

1im Alexander Hvde, Business Administration #

Jared C. Jonas, Business Administration

Taylor Brooke Jones, Business Administration #

Conor P. Jones, Business Administration

Emily Alene Kuper, Accountancy #

Travis A. Lee. Computer Science

Grace Addison Marek, Business Administration

Caleb Dean Marlow, Business Administration #

Jonathan W. Martin. Business Administration

Allen Munvaradzi Mathende.

Business Administration

Tanjila Mawla, Computer Science

Tony Randall McBroom, Business Administration

James Patrick McDonald, Business Administration #

Matthew Sloan McSpadden, Business Administration Kathlyn Nicole Mealio, Chemical Engineering Justin Tyler Medley, Computer Science # Micah A. Midgett, Mechanical Engineering Alexis Lené Miller, Business Administration Robert Patrick Mimms, Business Administration Michael Payton Miner,

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Adelyne Adams Mitchell, Accountancy #
Caitlyn Monds, Accountancy #
Carson Edward Morris, Accountancy #
Catherine Lillian Murphy, Chemical Engineering
William Bret Nolan, Business Administration #
Jared Levi Oliver, Mechanical Engineering
Madison Anne Pahl, Engineering Management #
Christopher Regon Paris, Business Administration
Kailey Danielle Pemberton,

Engineering Management
Alexandra Shea Pentecost, Business Administration
Praveen Pilyanam, Chemical Engineering
Justin Corbin Presley, Computer Science #
Maggie S. Ragheb, Business Administration #
Daniel James Rechichar, Accountancy #
Ethan James Reid, Mechanical Engineering
Peyton A. Roberts, Accountancy #
Rachel Robeson, Accountancy #

Emily Nicole Rodgers, Business Administration Jonathan J. Sanderson,

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Eduardo Sebastian, Business Administration #
Naim Sharifi, Business Administration
Ting Lu Short, Business Administration
Daniel Nicholas Simpson, Computer Science
Morgan M. Skelton, Business Administration
Ashlie Elaine Sloan, Business Administration
Dylan Charles Sparks, Business Administration
Jeffrey C. Speer, Business Administration
William Austin Stump,

Electrical and Computer Engineering Christian G. Swindell,

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Nathaniel Jihoe Tang, Business Administration #
Larry D. Taylor, Business Administration #
Sankalpa Timilsina, Computer Science
Wesley Alan Tipton, Business Administration
Brandon W. Vandergriff, Computer Science
Gregory A. Vinson, Business Administration
Jesse Davis Welch, Business Administration
Destiney Lynn Wilkerson, Business Administration
James Alexander Williams,
Business Administration
Derek Glen Windrow. Accountancy #

Derek Glen Windrow, Accountancy # Maci Makayla Young, Civil Engineering #

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Sarah Alrayes*

Ally M. Chambers*

Caden P. Close

Nancy Elizabeth Dishman #

Chase D. Faudi**

Donavyn B. Green

Kallie R. Hale***

Jacob Thomas Helton

Hailey Diana Hill*

Autumn L. Hogan

Mack B. Hunter

Ian A. Mardis #

Hannah Brooklyn McCallister*#

Hannah J. Meadows

Emily C. Moser

Bethany Priest*

Kennedy G. Selby

Lauren Simmons

Haylee V. Smith

Will Keith Thomas

Jewel K. Tollison #

John T. Turner *** ##

Hayley McKenna Vaughn**

Nealie M. West

Ariana M. Young*

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

lack T. Cheatham

Sydney A Cleary **#

Dylan J. Freeman

Kylee R. Gaumont

Vivian Joy Gust**

Megan Dianne Ivey

Mcferren Katherine Jones **#

Addison Stratton Lake*

Emily G. Lasser #

Christian M. Murphy *#

Lia Makaila Nesbitt ***#

Jada R. Pellegrino**

Ansley Rae Phifer#

Kaylan R. Randolph*#

Olivia G. Sexton*

Delaney Grace Stephens *#

Hannah L. Sullivan #

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Thomas L. Alnutt

Mohammed Ali M. Alyami

Allie F. Amado #

Elisabeth N. Anderson**

Braden A. Baker Chase Barber

Emily S. Brackman***‡
Andrew John Brown #
Brittany Hope Buck
Aisha M. Bukhari #
Mikayla R. Bumgarner
Wesley K. Cannon

Caleb Cardenas Emily A. Carlevato** Heather G. Combs

Fonza A. Cook # Dylan Coombs Lily R. Cross***

Kassidy F. Cunningham Michael A. Curt # Matthew C. Dalton Connor B. Denny

Zeke E. Dillon

Abigail Elizabeth Dudney

Jacob R. Easton Unenakam Ebiefung Analicia D. Edmondson

Luke A. Elliott**
Hannah F. Elrod *#
Jerred M. England
Jeff R. Enochs
Jp Esparza

Katelyn Olivia Farmer*

Parker]. Ferrell Benton C. Flatt Jacob F. Flatt Nick Tamer Fouche Kendal Allen Franks

Faith Alana Freeman
Daniel H. Frost
Cameron D. Fults

Will Andrew Ganues
Victoria Alexandra Gelabert

Garrett R. Gilliam Jackson Godsey Luis F. Gonzalez-Garces Izzac Alexander Gray Hannah E. Hardaway***‡

Dylan Hazard Molly A. Henderson Caitlin DeeAnn Hennessee#

Hogan L. Herring* Jacob D. Hinds # Morgan Lexi Holcomb*

Evzen Holis*

Cade Aaron Hopkins
Madison A. Houser #
Holden H. Howard
Allison Claire Jakes #
Claude T. Johnson
Gavin P. Johnson

Jasmine Tyanna Johnson # Micah Riggs Jones Noah Andrew Jones # Bailee P. Kauffman # Matthew J. Kreidenweis***

John D. Lee Daniel Lee

Alex Leon Carrera Khampasith Luanglath Demi M. Maniscalco Donovan Manogue McKenzie Mason # Logan L. Masters* Grace E. Maupin *** ‡# Thomas S. McDonald Drake Mcelyea*** Sam Scott McKinney*

Matthew K. Meadows # Blake J. Metzgar Cole B. Meyers Isaac J. Miller# Jeremy Lee Moore # Lindsay Kay Moore* Riley Moore

Bailey Grace Neal* Ceagan J. Nolan

James Mark-Valentino Nolan**

Chijioke S. Otuonye Baye Parrish Bhaven Patel Nihal R. Patel

Jeffrie Gordon Pettie**
Hailey E. Peyatt
Rebekah Joy Pigg*
Alison K. Plunket*
Robert I. Poteet
Tracy Thomas Putnam

Aidan Raines Grant Ramares Ayato Sato
Sydney E. Seeger*
Mia M. Shines*
Adam Kyle Sipes
Noah R. Smith**
Duncan L. Stewart
Stratton Stokely
Tiffany Stringer
Emma Caroline Swain*
Kaden B. Tackett*
Conner Thomas Throneberry
Cole R. Tilson
Eli G. Toomey

Connor R. Trent**

Gabriel Matthew Trent #
Madison N. Treutel***‡
Wesley Tucker
Martin T. Vizi
Maggie E. Waldroup
Riley R. Walker #
Mason A. Wiley
Cody B. Williams**
Caleb Ryan Williford
Lorryn Jaide Wilson*
Tommy Thomas Wilson**
Christopher R. Winningham
Darren Zheng

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Mariam Haider Abbas

Sahera Yasmin Abumariam Gabrie*

Noah 1. Alasin # Steele Albino Brvce Allon Alcorn Khalid Aldossary#

Fatima Nasser Mohd A Al-Heii Almutaz Rashad Alnomi

Majed Rashid Mohamed Mubarak Algasimi

Marshall W. Avera Riley R. Battilla Omar Ghazi S Bazuhir Ricky Bernard Beard # Mark L. Beech**

Elijah M. Brooks Emma Grace Brown Cov T. Brvant # Ethan Eric Bumgarner

Ben D. Burns

Pevton Michael Calitri*** Ben David Callahan Nolan K. Cardwell Lucas Carvalho Siqueira Dalton W. Champion Spencer K. Chandler Cameron E. Chargois Logan T. Cooper* Austin L Cox#

Gabe C. Dasilva # Parker Joseph DelBene Hunter S. Dinger

Caleb Joseph Currie

Logan P. Dorris Derek Andrew Dudash #

Garth P. Duncan # Mandi Geneva Duncan

Josh Egwuatu Sikiru O. Ekunsumi Laolu Faparusi Fady E. Farag # Leah M. Faulkner Sarah 1. Finkle

Christopher James Fowler*

Seth A. Franklin

Jeffrey Gordon Freeman Danielle Arlene Gable Russell C Gadd**

Tyler Nicholas Gallagher#

Selina Alonzo Garcia

Alexa Garrison**

William N. Goodson

Jake Riley Graves

Tyler David Greene

Abraham 1. Guzman

Ouinton T. Hall**

Sean M. Halstead

Jack Lee Hanchek

Ivrian Malik Hardaway

Laderian 1. Harris

Westin Ronald Hart

William R. Hashbarger *#

Joseph Hinchman

Lillard Hinkle

Nick D. Hoffmann

Daniel Shawn Holman

Elijah B. Hudson

Skyler R. Huffstetler

lavlen Rashard Johnson #

Dawson R. Jones

Ethan B. Jones

Daniel G. Jordan**

Jalene D Joyce

Ahmed Hani A. Kashif#

1ake Alexander Keenan

Gabriel Alexander Kim*

Deanna M. King*

Hunter M. Kinzer

Keegan Brvce Knox#

Matthew Connor Krizman**

Stephen N. Lancaster

Austin C. Lane

Josh G. Langford

Cody C. Lawson

Caleb M. Leach*

Brian Lee

Carrington Little

Obang Okuc Lwangmianga

Logan W. Malotte

Samuel George Mandody

Zach P. Massev #

Vector Masunungure

Andrei Matei***

Faviola Inez Mateo Laras

Owen Bailey McCall #

Seth W. McCormack* Austen McMahan Jacob Paul Neville Mendez

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THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM DECEMBER 8, 2023 2:00 P.M. CEREMONY

Presiding				
Invocation				
National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Faith Manganaro, accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis				
Address to GraduatesPresident Oldham				
Special Greeting				
Special Message Tracy Church Operations Leader at EV Battery Plant in Blue Oval City				
Special Address				
Recognition of Faculty President Oldham				
Recognition of Graduates' FamiliesPresident Oldham				
Presentation of Academic Deans				
Conferring of Degrees				
"The Tennessee Tech Hymn"				
Closing Remarks				
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees				
College of Graduate Studies				

DEGREE CANDIDATES FALL 2023

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

Abigail Grace Blake-Bradshaw, Environmental Sciences

Dissertation Title: "Experimental Disturbance on Waterfowl Sanctuaries: Implications for Mallard Behavior, Hunting Opportunity, and Sanctuary Design" **Advisor:** Dr. Bradley Cohen

Emily Caroline Crowell, Exceptional Learning

Dissertation Title: "Using Immersive Video Modeling
to Teach Classroom Social Skills to Students with ASD"

Advisor: Dr. Krystal Kennedy

Shrijana Duwadi, Environmental Sciences

Dissertation Title: "Factors Affecting Nutrient
Retention Recovery and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in
Restored Agricultural Floodplain Wetlands"

Advisor: Dr. Justin Murdock

Erik I. Koehler, Environmental Sciences #
Dissertation Title: "Insect Resistance and Horticultural
Trait Evaluation of Acylsugar Tomato Breeding Lines"
Advisor: Dr. Brian Leckie

Mary Ashley Mahan, Environmental Sciences #
Dissertation Title: "Multiple Assessments of Critical
Thinking by Introducing a Controversial Case Study"
Advisor: Dr. Dennis Duncan

Nicholas Mark Masto, Environmental Sciences

Dissertation Title: "Landscape and Behavioral Ecology
of Mallards during the Nonbreeding Season"

Advisor: Dr. Bradley Cohen

Cody James Matthews, Exceptional Learning #
Dissertation Title: "Biodynamis (BIO-D): A Model of
Health as Lifepower"
Advisor: Dr. Holly Anthony

Alyssa Lee Mullins, Exceptional Learning #
Dissertation Title: "A Study on the Influence of
the Research Experiences for STEM Educators and
Teachers (RESET) on Classroom Practice and Identity"
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Meadows

Vincent Okot, Exceptional Learning

Dissertation Title: "Predictive Relationship Between

ACT Scores, High School GPA, Gender, Multiple ACT

Testing Attempts, and Teacher Candidates' Overall

Performance on the EDTPA and EDTPA Tasks 1–3"

Advisor: Dr. Julie Baker

Kenneth W. Pierce, Environmental Sciences # **Dissertation Title:** "A Rapid-Screening Bioassay for Predicting Allelopathic Interactions Between Cultivars of Spinacia oleracea L. and Cultivars of Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench"

Advisor: Dr. Michael Nattrass

Kinsey Brooke Simone, Exceptional Learning #
Dissertation Title: "The Moderation Effects of
Instrumental Motivation, Risk Factors, and SelfEfficacy on the Relationship Between Parental
Expectations and Student Educational Expectation
Fulfillment"

Advisor: Dr. George Chitiyo

Spencer Garrett Womble, Environmental Sciences # Dissertation Title: "Factors Influencing Nutrient Retention in Restored Floodplain Wetlands in Western Tennessee and Kentucky, USA"

Advisor: Dr. Justin Murdock

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREES

Keyara Nicole Baltimore, Nursing Practice # **Project Title:** "Depression Screening in Prenatal Patients"

Advisor: Dr. Andrew Donadio

Lauren N. Dixon, Nursing Practice # Project Title: "Encouraging Mental Health to Treat Nursing Burnout in the Acute Care Setting" Advisor: Dr. Mary Lou Fornehed

Maggie Elizabeth Hensley, Nursing Practice # Project Title: "Educating Nurses about a New Comfort Measures Protocol in an Inpatient Setting" Advisor: Dr. Mary Lou Fornehed

Tammy Williams Howard, Nursing Practice Project Title: "Implementation of a Digital-Based HPV Education and Routine HPV Vaccine Status Screening in a College Setting: A Clinical Practice Change Project" Advisor: Dr. Bedelia Russell

Dawn Gunter Johnson, Nursing Practice # Project Title: "Implementation of an Evidence-Based Childhood Obesity Toolkit in a Rural Clinic in Cookeville, TN: A Quality Improvement Project" Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Mabry

Michaella Aleen McDonald, Nursing Practice # Project Title: "Assessment of Intensive Care Unit Nurses Knowledge of Eye Care Pre and Post Eye Care Protocol Implementation"

Advisor: Dr. Mary Lou Fornehed

Cassey Renee Rivera, Nursing Practice # Project Title: "Low-Dose Aspirin Education Tool" Advisor: Dr. Barbara lared

Sydney Nelson Stooksbury, Nursing Practice # Project Title: "The Utilization of Nursing Education to Increase Cardiac Rehabilitation Use in Patients Hospitalized with Heart Failure" Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Mabry

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREES

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Instructional Leadership #

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AWARDS AND HONORS

MILITARY GRADUATES

Isacc R. Cole William O. Dunn Zachary N. Kindle

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 to 7 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACEBEARER

Dr. Mark Stephens Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies

NATIONAL ANTHEM, "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Faith Manganaro, accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

"THE TENNESSEE TECH HYMN"

Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Riley Keegan, accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

MUSIC

Performed by the Brass Arts Quintet

Dr. Scott Hagarty, Trumpet

Mr. Chris McCormick, Trumpet

Dr. Justin Stanley, Horn

Dr. Joshua Hauser, Trombone

Tannen Trees, Trombone (student)

CANDIDATE READERS

Dr. Ahmed Abounassif.

College of Engineering, Clay N. Hixson Student Success Center

Bob Luna.

Tennessee Tech Alum, '82 Speech

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

Kenneth E. Kintz

Rafal Ahlamowicz Marvin Adkins Suellen Alfred Joseph N. Anderson Hollings T. Andrews lack Armistead Sakir Avik Sue Bailey S.K. Ballal Thurston Banks Bonita Barger Marvin W. Barker Robert R. Bell Sharon G. Berk Phillip Bettoli Joseph Biernacki William Paul Bonner Howard Brahmstedt Janice Branson **Robert Briggs** Curtiss Brock Evelvn Brown Frank Bullow Karen Burdette George Burns Rafael Bustamante Ben Byler Phillip Campana Graham Campbell Rodnev L. Carlson Pritindra Chowdhuri Larry Click Robert Coogan Frances Crawford David Crouse Orville Crowell Cathy Cunningham Glenn Cunningham Gregory Danner Corinne Darvennes Helen Deese Subramaniam Deivanayagam

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LIVE VIDEO STREAMING

Live video streaming will be available www.tntech.edu.

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The Tennessee Tech Hymn

words and music by Mrs. EVERETT DERRYBERRY

