



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

College of Education

Lisa Zagumny, Dean

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

Message From the Dean

Tech Tomorrow Strategic Plan

College of Education Mission, Vision, and Conceptual Framework

Accreditation & Program Review

College of Education Enrollment

Retention

2023 – 2024 Degrees Conferred

Scholarships

Student Spotlight

Alumnus Spotlight

Faculty Spotlight

Faculty, Staff, and Student Awards

Faculty Areas of Research & Expertise

Welcome to the Team!

Exceptional Learning PhD

Academic Departments

Counseling and Psychology
Curriculum and Instruction
Exercise Science

Centers & Offices

Child Development Lab
Freedom School
Jeffers Learning Resources Center
Millard Oakley STEM Center
Office of Teacher Education
Testing Center

Executive Leadership Council (ELC)

Teacher Education Committee (TEC)

A Note of Thanks

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As we conclude the academic year 2023 – 2024, it is an opportune time for us all to pause and reflect on the moments, individuals, and experiences that have shaped our journey throughout these past semesters.

Let us take a mindful moment to celebrate the successes achieved, the goals reached, the friendships forged, and the challenges we've overcome. Each of these milestones contribute to the rich tapestry of our school community's collective experiences.

At our core, we provide unwavering support, valuable resources, and dynamic learning environments that are fundamental in fostering positive outcomes for our students, faculty, and staff alike.

Looking back on the academic year that was, and as we prepare to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, let us hold on to the memories of goodness, kindness, and the spirit of helpfulness that have defined our past school year. May these qualities serve as guiding lights as we move forward together into the next academic year of our educational journey.

~Lisa

Lisa Zagumny, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education



TECH TOMORROW STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission

Tennessee's technological university creates, advances, and applies knowledge to expand opportunity and economic competitiveness. As a STEM-infused, comprehensive institution, Tennessee Tech delivers enduring education, impactful research, and collaborative service.

Vision

Tennessee Tech will achieve national prominence and impact through its engaged students, dedicated faculty, and career-ready graduates known for their creativity, tenacity, and analytical approach to problem solving.

Core Principles

Academic Excellence

We expect and produce high academic achievement, foster collaboration, exemplify integrity, and inspire creativity and realized potential for the entire campus community.

Community Engagement

We collaborate with community members and organizations to advance positive societal and economic trends.

Meaningful Innovation

We are purposefully innovative in all we do.

Student Success

We empower students to realize their potential, craft individualized experiences, and discover their passion.

Supportive Environment

We are committed to a diverse and welcoming community and provide a campus size and atmosphere that fosters personal attention and fit.

Value Creation

We provide a high return on investment from our state, tuition, and donor resources and foster productive, responsible, and caring contributors to society.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MISSION, VISION, AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Mission

The mission of the College of Education is to provide unique and rigorous, learner-centered academic experiences for our students to achieve their highest potential as life-long learners, professionals, and citizens.

Vision

The College of Education will be an empowering force in education.

Conceptual Framework

Prepare effective, engaging professionals through a clinically rich, evidence-based program with a network of mutually beneficial partnerships.



ACCREDITATION & PROGRAM REVIEW

CAEP

The **Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)** advances equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.



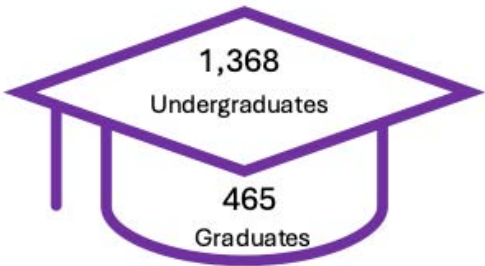
CACREP

The **Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)** accredits master's and doctoral degree programs in counseling and its related specialties offered by colleges and universities in the U.S. and internationally.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

Fall 2023



Total: 1,833

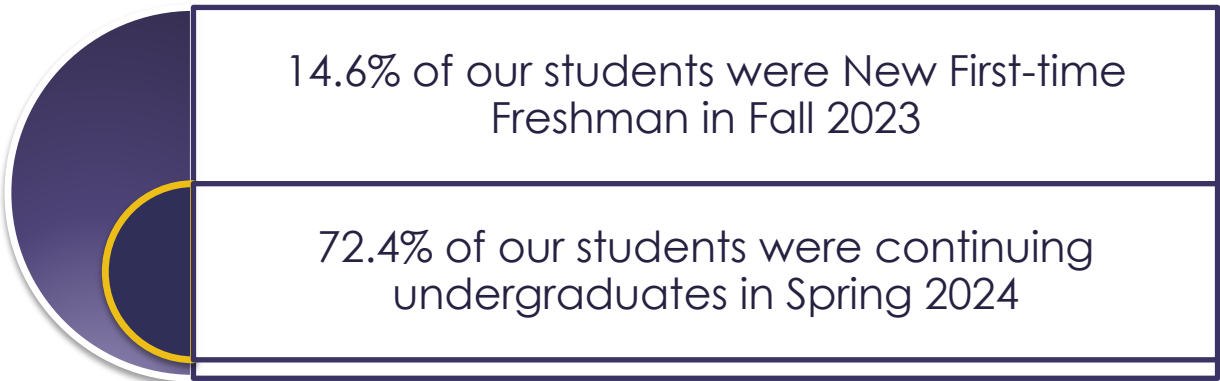
Spring 2024



Total: 1,724

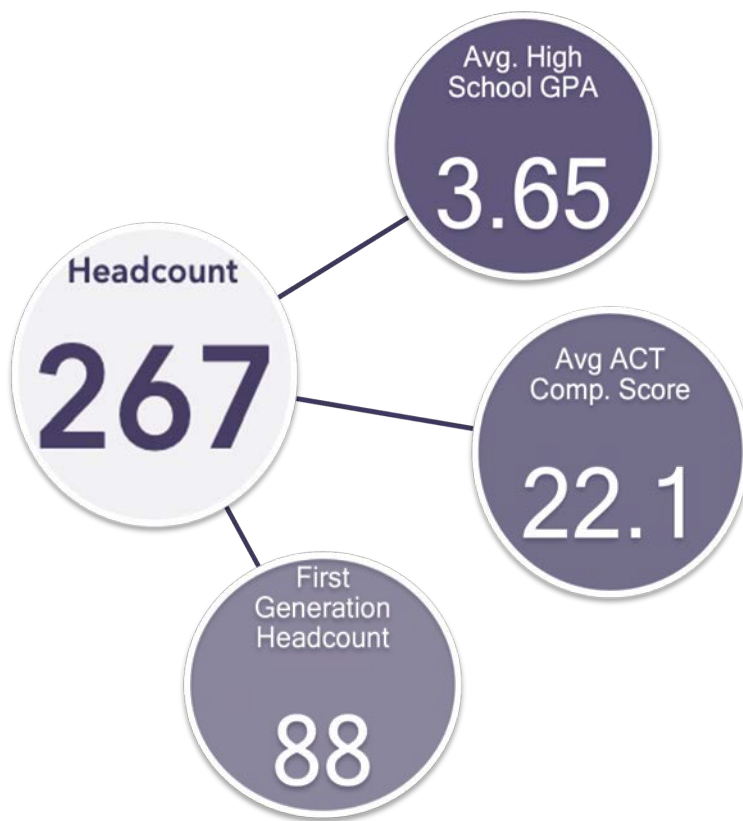
Enrollment Characteristics

	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
New Freshman	267	7
New Transfers	134	30
Additional Bachelor's	2	1
Continuing Undergraduates	965	1,249
New Graduates	143	54
Continuing Graduates	322	376
New Special Graduates	0	1



College of Education

First – Time Freshmen

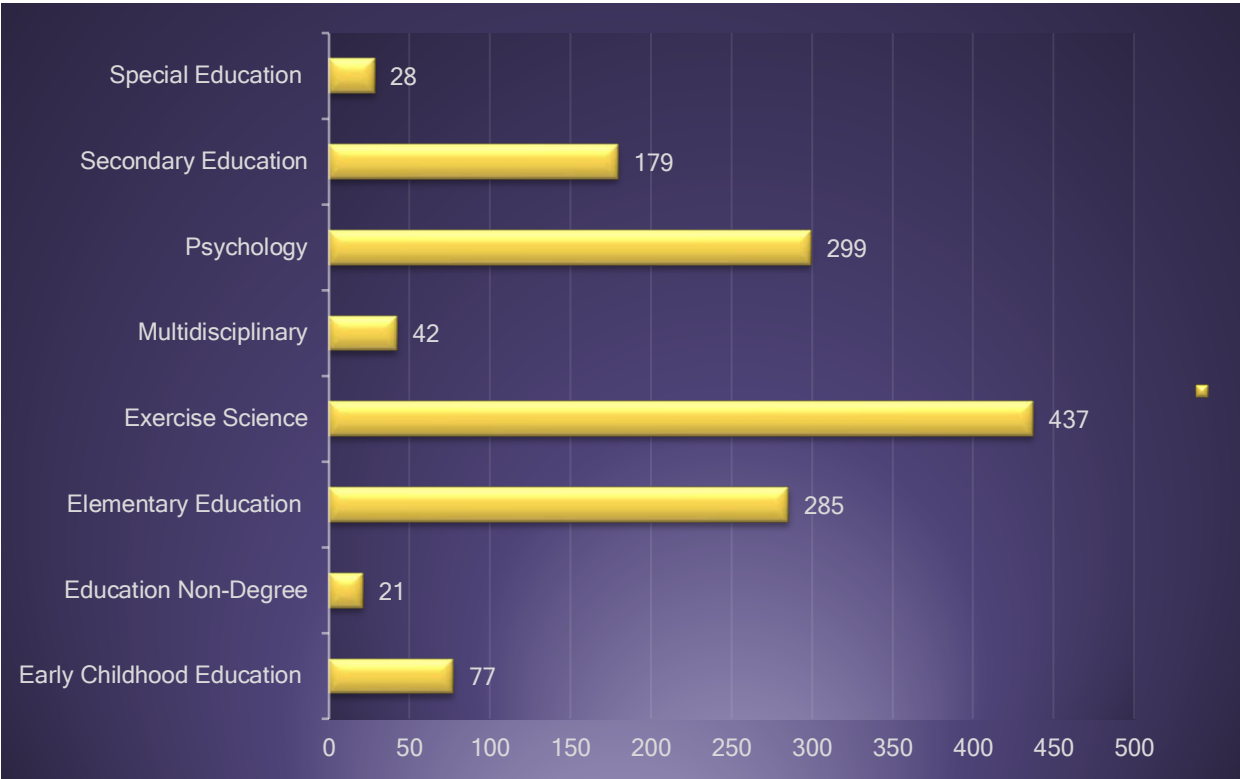


First time freshmen at Tennessee Tech University play a crucial role in shaping the vibrant academic community and future successes of the College of Education. As newcomers to the university, these students bring fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and diverse backgrounds that enrich campus life and contribute to a dynamic learning environment. They represent the next generation of leaders, innovators, and scholars who will not only benefit from TTU's renowned

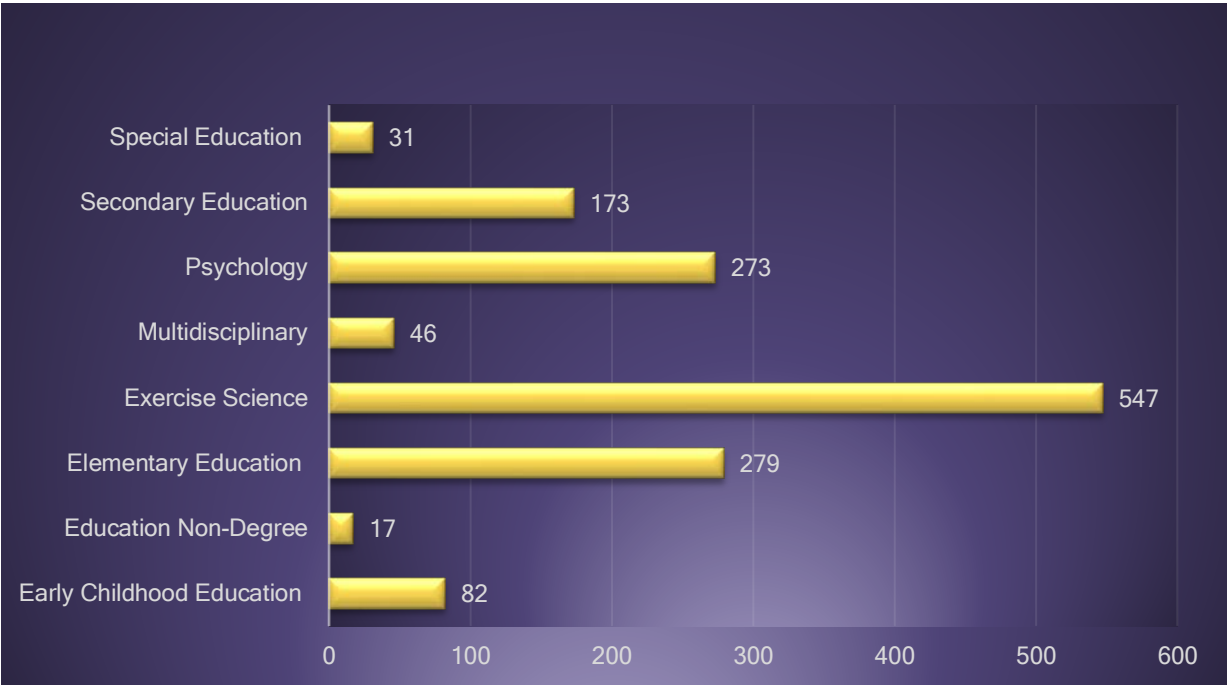
academic programs, but also contribute to its growth through their talent and ambitions. Their arrival signifies a new beginning and a promise of potential achievements, fostering a spirit of curiosity and exploration that drives both individual growth and collective progress within the university community. Therefore, investing in the successes and well-being of first-time freshmen is not just beneficial for their personal development but also essential for the vitality and continued excellence of TTU.

Undergraduate Enrollment by Program

Fall 2023

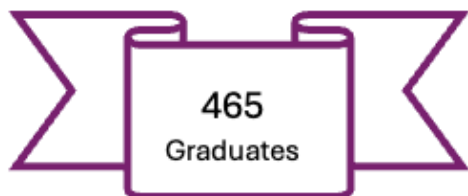


Spring 2024

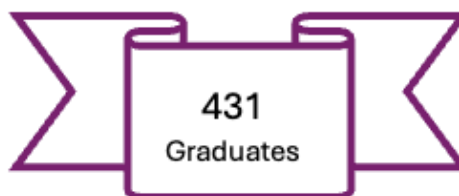


Graduate Enrollment Trends

Fall 2023



Spring 2023

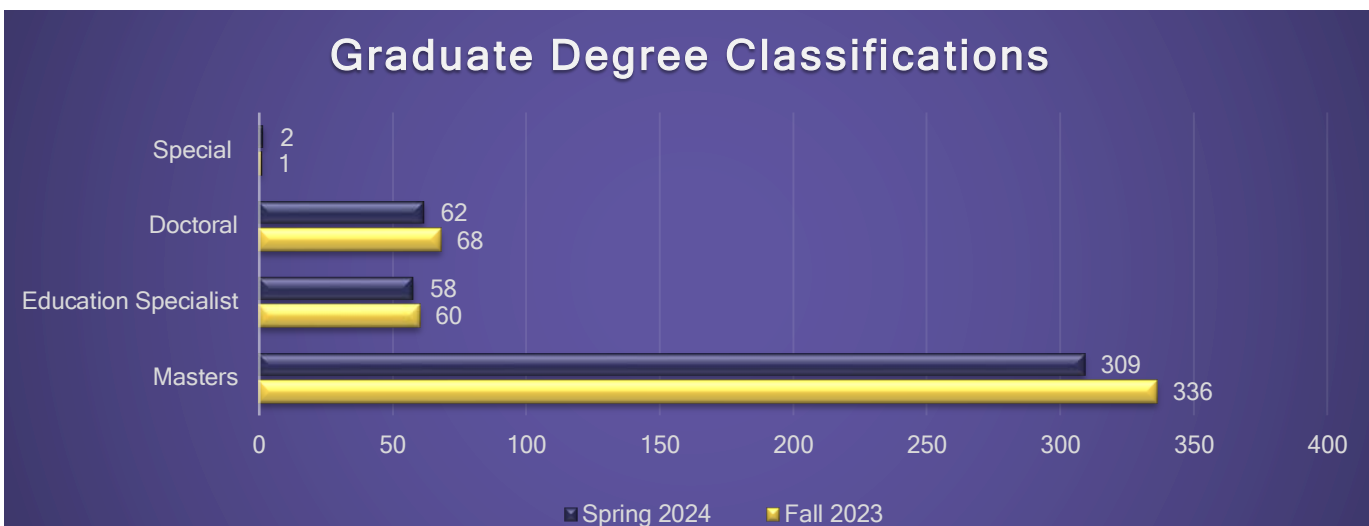


Enrollment Characteristics

	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
New Graduates	143	54
Continuing Graduates	322	54
New Special Graduates	0	1



Graduate Degree Classifications



RETENTION

First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Retention Rates

Fall 2022 Cohort by Program

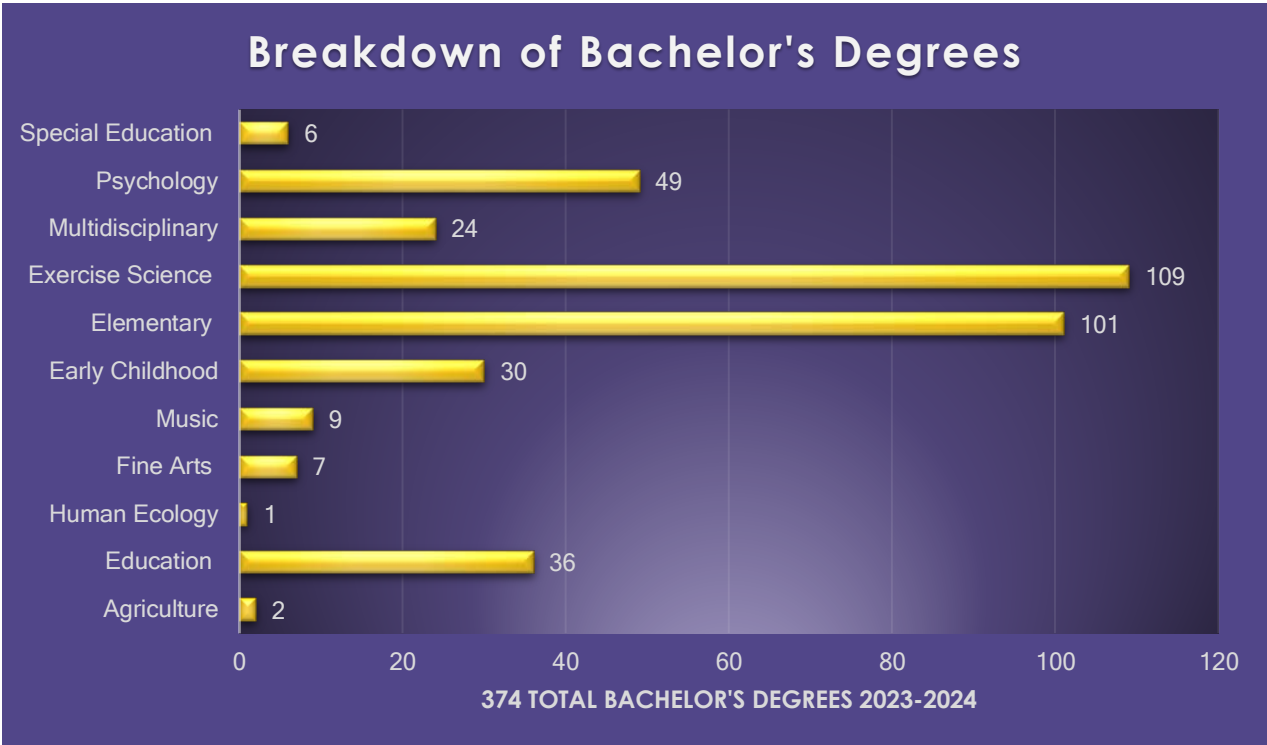
Fall-to-Spring

Fall-to-Fall

	N	At University	Original College	Original Program	At University	Original College	Original Program
Education	263	93.9%	86.7%	82.5%	81.4%	70.0%	62.7%
Early Childhood Education (BS)	11	81.8%	81.8%	63.6%	81.8%	81.8%	72.7%
Elementary Education (BS)	45	84.4%	75.6%	68.9%	73.3%	60.0%	53.3%
Exercise Science, Phys. Educ., & Wellness (BS)	77	97.4%	93.5%	92.2%	79.2%	72.7%	66.2%
Multidisciplinary Studies (BS)	9	88.9%	88.9%	66.7%	88.9%	88.9%	55.6%
Psychology (BS)	71	95.8%	85.9%	83.1%	81.7%	67.6%	64.8%
Secondary Education (BSEd)	42	97.6%	90.5%	88.1%	88.1%	71.4%	59.5%
Special Education (BS)	8	100.0%	75.0%	75.0%	100.0%	75.0%	75.0%

2023 – 2024 DEGREES CONFERRED

Total Degrees Conferred: 605



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Amount	# of Awards	Recipient(s)
Alpha Delta Kappa Biennial Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Juliette Passalacqua
Anna Grace Bandy Endowed Scholarship	\$250	2	Kobe Jones
Anna Grace Bandy Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Kyra Wright
Avo Anderson Memorial Endowed Education Scholarship	\$1,000	14	Gopi Patel, Macey Pickle, Chole Skelton, Kensea Skelton, Jamaal Thompson, Gloria Uduehi, Jayden Baker, Shelby Beasley, Kendall Bell, Brant Billen, Sydnee Collins, Rebekah Garber, Bailey Gilliam, Itohan Ogbomo
Avo Anderson Memorial Endowed Education Scholarship	\$500	3	Landon Mallo, Miles Ondap, Ashley Yearwood
Avo Anderson Memorial Endowed Education Scholarship	\$300	1	Caden Nash
Bill and Suzanne Worrell Endowed Scholarship	\$750	1	Seth Sausville
Charles E. and Ruth L. Golden Endowed Scholarship in Education	\$1,250	2	Sierra Williams, Kyra Wright
Colonel Jim and Frances Larkins and Jackie Middleton Educational Endowed Scholarship	\$500	2	Zoe Goetz, Michael Hall
Cox/Carnes Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$2,500	1	Emmylea McCoy
Cumberland County Scholarship	\$2,500	1	Rachael Sexton
Dinah Pistole Bivens Endowed Scholarship	\$2,000	2	Katie Ashburn, Breanna Hall
Dinah Pistole Bivens Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Kobe Jones
Dolores D. Nichols Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$2,000	2	Kylee Hancock, Mary Jo LaBarge
Dr. Betty Roe Scholarship	\$750	1	Cassie Brown
Dr. Debbie McCormick Praxis Exam Fund	\$180	1	Sarah Gibson

Dr. Debbie McCormick Praxis Exam Fund	\$156	5	Katherine Anderson, Kendall Bell, Madalyn Harris, Ayla Hoy, Destiny Morrison
Dr. Debbie McCormick Praxis Exam Fund	\$130	1	Destiny Morrison
Drs. Leo & Gloria McGee Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	3	Kennedi Coleman, Talya Moore, Natalia Taylor
Dr. Mark & Mrs. Elaine Heinrich Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	John Jones, Ashlee Sherrell
Edythe Tipton Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Kimari Bass
Elinor P. Ross Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship Endowment	\$500	1	Meghan Sliger
Elinor P. Ross Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship Endowment	\$250	1	Vincent Okot
Elizabeth Bell Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Meghan Sliger, Chelsey Stanton
Elsie Jobe & Jewell Nolen Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$600	2	Sydney Haggard, Anthony Phillips
Energy, Technology & Environmental Business Association (ETEBA) Annual STEM Scholarship	\$500	2	Emma Buckner, Andrea Dittmer
Ernestine Martin Murphy Memorial Scholarship	\$500	2	John Jones, Chloe Reynolds
Essie Dee Gragg Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Sherry Denby
Esther Lee Welch Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship	\$1,384	1	Shelby Beasley
Esther Lee Welch Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship	\$500	1	Natalie Leonard
Faye Bohannon Rodgers Endowed Scholarship	\$600	2	Shelby Beasley, Bethany Borges
Flippen Endowed Scholarship in Physical Education	\$1,000	2	Carleigh Cook, Stevie King

Frances "Cissy" Chambers Endowed Scholarship in Education	\$1,000	3	Gopi Patel, Natalee Sturgill, Olga Williams
Frances "Cissy" Chambers Endowed Scholarship in Education	\$500	1	Taylor Kelso
General Education Foundation Award	\$3,000	1	Gopi Patel
General Education Foundation Award	\$1,500	1	John Jones
General Education Foundation Award	\$1,000	1	Maci Eilers
General Education Foundation Award	\$65	1	Jamaal Thompson
Glennis W. Scott Endowed Scholarship	\$3,000	11	Allan Buchanan, Logan Duckworth, Alex Geary, Buchanan Honeycutt, Jayden Jenkins, Brandon Noonan, Camden Norris, Zachary Pham, Dustin Pitcock, Jonathan Wilkerson, Christopher Wolk
Glennis W. Scott Endowed Scholarship	\$1,500	1	Jared Smith
Greer Endowed Education Scholarship	\$600	2	Katelyn Chambers, Hailee Randall
Greer Endowed Education Scholarship	\$300	1	Amira Senter
Hazel Wheeler Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,500	4	Sara Conatser, Sawyer Gunter, Sayde Taylor, Kelsey Westfelt
Heitzman Family Endowed Scholarship	\$600	2	Noah Oaks, Kaylah Vorhees
Hubert & Shirley Chaffin Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Brianna Moore
Hubert & Shirley Chaffin Endowed Scholarship	\$250	1	Jennifer Franz
James & Alice Kennon Endowed Early Childhood Education Scholarship	\$2,500	1	Bethany Borges
James Davis & Lou Ann Watts Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Makenzie Burgin
James R. & Mevolyn D. Haston Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Faith Wright

James R. & Mevolyn D. Haston Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Megan Houston-Lane
James R. Dotson Memorial Scholarship of Kappa Delta Pi	\$1,000	1	Maci Eilers
Jane DuBois Young Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Julie Matheney, Adele Young
Jane DuBois Young Scholarship	\$285	1	Maci Eilers
Jessica A. Kelley Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$3,000	1	Maggie Conley
Jim & Barbara Greeson Endowed Scholarship	\$600	2	Bailey Gilliam, Maggie Wright
John & Doris Clayton Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	13	Autumn Barsumian, Emily Bramblett, Campion Coombe, Kaitlin Davis, Joanna Foster, Laura Frank, Kara Fulkerson, Emma Hyde, Robert Moore, Juliette Passalacqua, Sawyer Radford, Jackson Walker, Sierra Wilder
John & Doris Clayton Endowed Scholarship	\$500	2	Jonathan Kelso, Taylor Kelso
Johnny & Dorothy "Dot" Miller Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Mason Holley, Erin Krismantis
Keeble Belle Endowed Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	3	Katherine Anderson, Kaylee Powers, Katie Warren
Larry & Allene Peach Endowed Scholarship in Early Childhood Education	\$1,000	2	Corrin Howard, Kaylee Powers
Linda S. Swisher Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	4	Hannah Hood, Matthew Hyde, Janey Quire, Hailey Woodard
Lorene Cook Neal Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Rebecca Moore, Destiny Rich
Luther & Lora Maye Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	John Montooth
Marcia Swallows Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Amanda Warren
Marilyn Morton Endowed Scholarship	\$500	2	Katherine Anderson, Catey Knox
Mary & A.E. Quattlebaum Endowed Education Fellowship	\$1,500	2	Bridget Pugh, Hannah Willis

Monika & Henry Bowman Endowed Education Scholarship	\$1,500	1	Tayviona Harris
Mozelle Spain Medley Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$,1000	6	Shelby Beasley, Emily Bentley, Cassie Dykes, Caitlyn Keller, Hayden Pettit, Donovan Sullivan
Mozelle Spain Medley Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Rylee Hertter
Odom Family STEM Scholarship	\$2,000	5	Alexander Armour, Jake Ashburn, Ashley Barrow, Pooja Patel, Woogenscky Placide
Patricia A. Malone Endowed Education Support Grant	\$1,700	1	Tina Cesnik
Patricia A. Malone Endowed Education Support Grant	\$526.79	1	John Jones
Patricia A. Malone Endowed Education Support Grant	\$200	1	Cheyanne Brown
Phi Delta Kappa Harvey & Anne Neufeldt Endowed Educational Service Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Audrianna Boles
Quill Evan Cope Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Sophia Enriquez
R.K. & Marcia Fletcher Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Davie Harbin
R.K. & Marcia Fletcher Endowed Scholarship	\$500	2	Elijah Wilson, Ashley Yearwood
Ralph Lexie Freeman & Edith Carlock Freeman Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Summer Walker
Rand Residency in Education Award	\$1,000	1	Nicole Hunsaker
Ray & Linda Morris Scholarship	\$11,250	3	Zachary Childress, Nathan Price, Lydia Warren
Ray & Linda Morris Scholarship	\$5,625	1	Eli Parker
Raymond Bull Brown Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Lily Nabors, Brooks Pugh
Raymond Bull Brown Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Courtney Hitchcock
Raymond Drost Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	1	Loleita Cruz
Richard L. Hein Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Eli Woodard, Shelby Zacharias

Richard L. Hein Memorial Scholarship	\$500	1	Emma Buckner
Richard Troelstrup Psychology Award & Scholarship	\$100	2	Sophia Crips, Nicholas Woods
Rosemary Piepmeir Deberry Scholarship	\$800	1	Reginald Brown
Ross Graduate Reading Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Gabriella Bulahan, Rosemarie Smith
Ross Undergraduate Reading Endowed Scholarship	\$2,000	1	Leigha Mozingo
Rozelle Huddleston Nash Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$500	1	Annie Jackson
Rozelle Huddleston Nash Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$250	1	Maria Augustin Baltazar
Sharon Spears Borden Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	5	Carrie Brown, Jenna Cate Buckner, Megan Houston-Lane, Leah Husson, Ashley Looper
Steven & Deanna Close Endowed Scholarship	\$1,500	1	Ethan Smith
Steven & Deanna Close Endowed Scholarship	\$500	2	Elizabeth Fishback, Laderian Harris
T.J. & Lottie Farr Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000	2	Jackson Baker, Eli Langford
Terracon Foundation Annual STEAM Scholarship for Diversity & Inclusion	\$416.66	4	Michael Cates, Andrea Dittmer, Corshell Peoples, Shanghtin Tawng
Tommy Burks Memorial Endowed Scholarship	\$350	1	Carter Apple
Tommy Moffitt Strength & Conditioning Scholarship	\$500	1	Hunter Barnhart
Verna B. MacKay Endowed Scholarship	\$700	3	Jonathan Aldrich, Jean Peters, Hayden Pettit
W. Doyle & Melford Stone Smith Endowed Scholarship	\$3,000	1	Jacklyn Kleparek
Wanda Howard Education Scholarship	\$500	3	Margaret Buckner, Sydney Haggard, Kristopher Jones
White County Retired Teachers Endowed Scholarship	\$600	1	Sierra Williams

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Firefighter and Student Abby McCulley Ensures Nursing Student Gets New Lab Coat After Rescue



In a heartwarming display of compassion and TTU community spirit, Abby McCulley, a sophomore special education major and volunteer firefighter, has gone above and beyond to help a fellow TTU student in need. Abby's quick thinking and selflessness came to light following a harrowing three-vehicle accident on Highway 111 in September, where she played a pivotal role in rescuing a nursing student trapped in his vehicle.

During the chaotic scene, emergency responders were forced to cut through the nursing student's lab coat to safely extract him from the wreckage. Witnessing this, Abby was deeply moved. "It broke my heart," she shared. "You know he spent a lot of time to get to the point where he can wear that lab coat. It's the little things."

Recognizing the significance of the lab coat to the nursing student, Abby took it upon herself to ensure he received a replacement and

planned for a new Tech white lab coat to be provided to the student, ensuring he could continue his studies without delay.

Officials in the College of Education were quick to support Abby's initiative. Administrators ensured that Abby did not have to bear the cost of the replacement lab coat personally, highlighting their appreciation for her act of kindness and community service.

Abby McCulley's actions to serve is a powerful reminder of the impact individuals can have in times of crisis and need. Her dedication to both her studies and her service as a volunteer firefighter exemplifies the values of compassion and selflessness that are integral to the TTU community spirit.

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

Lessons in the Classroom Prepared Alumnus to Teach Abroad



Luke Maynard, 2021 Early Childhood Education and 2022 M.A. came to TTU from Australia to play football for the Golden Eagles. Now, he is using his experience as an international student, combined with lessons in the classroom and on the football field, to teach English to children in other countries.

"Teaching is something I've wanted to do my entire life," Maynard said.

After completing three semesters in Australia, Luke

transferred to TTU to finish his degree in education. When he graduated, Luke says he assumed he would find a teaching position in the United States. Through previous travels, he has discovered a love for Latin America and accepted a position teaching kindergarten in Santa Marta, Colombia. He just completed his one-year contract in Colombia, and will teach elementary school in Kuwait City, Kuwait, this fall. "I think gaining international experience in various regions of the world [will make me] a better, more culturally diverse and more sensitive teacher."

Luke says TTU and the College of Education prepared him for a teaching career through challenging classes, caring professors and impactful experiences on the football team. He adds that Julie Baker, then associate dean of the College of Education, and Amy Brown, the director of Teacher Education was always in his corner, guiding him along the way.

"None of what I'm doing now would be possible without them," he said. "My professors truly cared about students' education. During my time at TTU, I was fortunate enough to build great relationships with both my professors and my peers. My professors were influential in shaping me into the teacher I am today."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

TTU First University in the Southeast to Certify P.E. Teachers in Fly Fishing Instruction



Faculty in the Exercise Science Department at Tennessee Tech University are pioneering a new program to expand the physical education curriculum and train future P.E. teachers on a valuable skill for Tennessee's open waters.

Tech is now the first university in the southeast to teach its P.E. teacher-licensure students how to instruct fly

fishing in K-12 schools using a curriculum from the National Fishing in Schools program.

Already, 15 students in the program have become certified fly fishing instructors. It follows Tech's earlier success as the first university in the state to certify P.E. teachers in archery.

Both undertakings have been of personal importance to David Mann, assistant professor of exercise science at Tech, who says the curriculum enhancements are ultimately about instilling in younger generations a love of the great outdoors.

"My fear is that, if students don't learn to appreciate what we have here in Tennessee, this will be a generation that may not work to protect it," said Mann.

To bring the curriculum to Tech, Mann worked with Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) staff including David Lowrie, R3 fishing program coordinator, and Matt Clarey, assistant chief of the outreach program on curriculum and presentation.

Clarey, himself a 1998 Tech graduate, praised the university's leadership in teaching students outdoor sporting skills that promote conservation.

Mann has also channeled his passion for the sport into his service as faculty advisor for the university's fly-fishing student organization, "Tech on the Fly." The club recently hosted ESPN Outdoors fly fishing gold medalist Chuck Farneth for a free casting demonstration open to the public and was positively received.

"We've got something pretty amazing here in Tennessee when it comes to our rivers, lakes and streams," said Mann. "We want to teach students to appreciate and preserve it."

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT AWARDS

2023 – 2024 College of Education & Teacher Appreciation Awards Recipients

Faculty, Advisor, and Staff



Bobbi Severt
Teaching



Tony Michael
Research



Kinsey Simone
Service



Kyle Shanks
Team Player



Ashley Akenson
Outstanding Advisor



Olivia Newman
Outstanding Staff



Mary Ann Pyle
Alumna of the Year

Graduate Students Awards



Katie Mixon
Future Educator



Ashley Looper
Leadership



Lara Strate
Service



Tina Cesnik
Go-Getter



McKenna Day
Professionalism

Undergraduate Students Awards



Lauren Matlock
Future Educator



Hannah Stephens
Leadership



William Mayfield
Service



Abbigail McCulley
Go-Getter



Emily Hargis
Professionalism

David L. Larimore Excellence in Research Award

Gretchen Grenz, Special Education
Pleasant Hill Elementary School

Current P-12 Educators



Karen Trentham
ADMINISTRATOR



Sara Wiggins
ART EDUCATOR



Lacey Clark
EARLY CHILDHOOD



Sam Matson
HIGH SCHOOL



Andrea Batson
LIBRARIAN



Rhonda Girdley
ELEMENTARY ED



Sierra Smith
MIDDLE SCHOOL



Christy Lee
PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Robin Hull

SCHOOL COUNSELOR



Raejean Landis

SPECIAL ED



Kayleigh Hudson

TEACHING AS PROFESSION



Brian Webster

MUSIC



Alice Brown

ENGLISH/SECOND LANGUAGE

Alumna of the Year



Mary Ann Pyle, '87 elementary education and '89 M.A., says the education she received from Tennessee Tech – specifically, technology in teaching – gave her a competitive edge in her career. Now, she and her husband Robert want to provide the same opportunity for future educators through the Pyle Technology in Education Fund, which will support technology efforts in Tech's College of Education.

"I hope this gift helps students gain the skills they need for their first job," Pyle said. "And I hope they gain confidence using technology in the classroom."

Pyle attended Tech from 1983 to 1989 and says College of Education faculty Carl Owens, James Akenson, Gene Talbert and Richard Fletcher stressed the importance of incorporating technology into lessons whenever possible.

Pyle recalls that when she interviewed for her first job in Metro Davidson Nashville, the principal was intrigued by her experience with Macintosh computers. Pyle says she firmly believes her knowledge of technology was one of the reasons she was hired.

She also says the education and experiences she gained at Tech – both in the classroom and as a graduate assistant helping with summer camps and computer labs – allowed her to have a robust career in teaching and technology. She taught in Metro Nashville for six years, then for Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Colorado, and was a Sun Microsystems teacher trainer throughout her school assignment in Adams 12. She also served on fundraising committees and technology committees.

FACULTY AREAS OF RESEARCH & EXPERTISE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION	
Akenson, Ashley Director, Graduate Programs	Program planning & evaluation • Mindfulness • Transformative learning • Learning transfer • Quantitative & qualitative research methods
Shanks, Kyle Assessment Director	Higher education assessment • Teacher education assessment • Data visualization
Smith, Matthew Interim Associate Dean	School Leadership • School & Community Partnerships • Career & Technical Education • Julius Rosenwald Schools • Character Education
Zagumny, Lisa L. Dean	Critical discourse analysis • History of teacher education • Posthumanism • School textbooks • Social construction of identity
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING and PSYCHOLOGY	
Burgin, Chris Professor	Happiness • Meaningful goals • Gratitude • Hope • Optimism • Awe
Edwards, Derrick Assistant Professor	Emergency responder health • Burnout • Post-traumatic stress disorder
Henniger, Nicole Associate Professor	Social emotions (envy, jealousy, shame, guilt) • Applications of social emotion research (in patient-physician interactions, behavioral health, organ donation, stigma towards substance use and abuse)
Hensley, James (Doug) Senior Lecturer	Child development • ADHD • Counseling • Teaching large classes
Hermann-Turner, Katherine Associate Professor	Qualitative research • Counselor education • Relational-Cultural Theory • Perinatal counseling • Motherhood developmental models • Working mothers post-COVID • Grandparent alienation • Gifted education • Family systems counseling
Kazanas, Stephanie Associate Professor	Human memory • Cognition and emotion • Evolutionary psychology Bilingualism • Critical thinking
Loffis, Mark Professor	Suicide • Alexithymia • Addiction Counseling • Psychological & Mental Health Assessment • Rural Mental Health Needs • Ethics • Parenting skills for fathers • Adverse & Positive Childhood Experiences • Couples counseling • Spirituality in Counseling
Luo, Ye (Agnes) Assistant Professor	Instrument Development • Translation & Validation • Review & Meta-Analysis • Asian Racial & Cultural Identities • Bilingual & Multicultural Counseling • Technology Use in Counseling

Michael, Tony Associate Professor	Instrument Development & Scale Construction • Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling • Patterns of Relating and Attachment Styles • Counseling and Play Therapy • Supervision and Mentoring • Program Administration and Evaluation
Wiley, Jonathan Assistant Professor	Doctoral teaching preparation • Rural counseling issues • Federal-level mental health policy • Geographical disparities in mental health service delivery • Humanistic models of counseling, teaching, and learning • Qualitative methodologies • Phenomenological methodologies
Wood, Katherine Assistant Professor	Grief and loss • School counseling • School counselor training in grief and loss • Instrument development • Multilingual Learner (MLL) in K-12 settings
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION	
Akenson, James Professor	History & Assumptions of Elementary & Secondary Social Studies • Applications of Country Music to the K-12 Curriculum • Big Data & Country Music: Applications for Research & Teaching Issues, History, & Assumptions of Education
Anderson, Luke Instructor	Secondary education • English education • Representation in curricula • Educational policy • Teacher stressors and burnout • Queer theory • LGBTQIA+ topics
Anthony, Holly Professor	Mathematics education • STEM education • Teacher preparation • Adult learning • Ongoing, sustainable professional development of teachers • Teaching and learning • Qualitative research in higher education
Baker, Jane Professor	Early literacy • Early numeracy writing instruction • Early childhood education • Early childhood special education • Family collaboration • STEM outreach • Inclusive practices
Beach, Jason Professor	Augmented/Virtual/Mixed Reality • Metaverse • Assistive Technologies • Adult Education • STEM • TPACK • Instructional Design • Computer Science Education K-12
Beach, Natalie Lecturer	Autism • Co-teaching • Special Education in the General Education Classroom
Braisted, Lindsey Instructor	Literacy • ESL • Trauma Informed Instruction • Adolescent Education • Culturally Inclusive Classrooms
Callender, Amy Assistant Professor	Educational and medical journey for families of children with disabilities • Functional skills instruction in the school setting and inclusion practices for students with moderate to severe disabilities • Education for individuals with disabilities in other countries • Transition and employment services for adults with disabilities • Early Intervention evaluation process

Chitiyo, George Professor	Economics of higher education • Psychosocial aspects of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa • Quantitative research and evaluation methods • Chess in Education • Program Evaluation
Comer, Melissa Professor	Research interests: Appalachian culture and language patterns, looping in education, literacy, teacher education / Areas of expertise: Teacher education, literacy, English education
Fidan, Perihan Lecturer	Elementary education • Data assessment • Field experience and applied educational assessment • Pre-service teacher education • Educational collaborations between schools and community institutions • STEM education in K-12 grades • Multicultural education
Gleasant, Cory Assistant Professor	Computer science education for K-12 and teacher prep • Computational thinking • Programming microworlds • XR technologies • Mathematics education • K-12 educational technologies • STEM curriculum design
Grimes, Ka Rene Lecturer	Specific Learning Disabilities (Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia) • High Incidence Disabilities • Math Cognition Executive Function • Mental Health Risks Associated with Learning Difficulties • Autism • Data Mining/Learning Analytics of Educational Software • Special Education/ Teacher Education • Self-Determination Theory • Universal Design for Learning • Research Methods: Qualitative, Quantitatively Experimental Designs, Secondary Analysis, Mixed-Methods, and Single Case Design
Howard, Julie Associate Professor	Libraries • Library Sciences • Young Adult Literature • Technology • Artificial Intelligence
Isbell, Janet Professor	Poverty • Literacy • Qualitative research • Book censorship • Equity and Social Justice • Rural Education and communities
Jones, Angela Senior Lecturer	Teacher evaluation • Elementary education • Science of reading • Literacy instruction
Kennedy, Krystal Assistant Professor	Applied behavior analysis • Autism • Positive behavior supports • School bus interventions • Single-case design research methods • Establishing international behavior analysis supports
Koester, Cale Senior Lecturer	Digital Media Project Based Learning • Comparative and Cross-cultural Education • Coding and Computational Thinking in K12
Laffoon, Alicia Senior Lecturer	Inquiry based social studies practices • Visual literacy
Lastres, Marlana Lecturer	Childhood Trauma • Child Abuse & Neglect • ACEs • Gender Microaggressions • Women in Academia • At-Risk Populations • Program Planning & Evaluation • Qualitative & Quantitative Methods • DEI Concepts/Framework
McMillan, Elizabeth Lecturer	Elementary literacy best practices • Literacy curriculum • Educator prep programs
Marcum, Rebekah Senior Lecturer	Influence of religious identity on teacher identities • Tolerance and diversity in early childhood education • Narrative inquiry • STEM and nature experiences for individuals with disabilities

Meadows, Jennifer Associate Professor	Connecting real-world research to STEM classrooms • Informal STEM education • Elementary Mathematics Teacher Preparation
Moore, Kelly Senior Lecturer	Science education • STEM • Makerspace technology
Ogbomo, Queen Associate Professor	Study Abroad (Gaining global Cultural Perspectives) • STEM Education. Online/ Distance Education • Grant Writing • Mathematics & Movement • The Relevance of Multicultural Education in Elementary Schools • Teaching for Social Justice • Poverty simulation activities on the attitudes of pre-service teachers • Culturally relevant pedagogy • Preservice and in-service teacher professional development • Recruitment and retention of teachers of color
Park, Eunsung Assistant Professor	Learning analytics and applications • Adaptive learning • Distance education • Computational thinking and debugging
Pennycuff-Trent, Kristen Professor	Emergent literacy • Science and literacy • Academic language • Children's and Young adult literature • Grant writing • Professional development for educators
Richards, Stephanie Assistant Professor	K-12 administration including the principalship and the superintendency • Diversity • Recruitment and retention of teachers • Practical application of pedagogy • Poverty • Bullying • School violence • Working with at risk students • Reader's theatre • Social Studies • Recruitment of underrepresented students into education • Using simulations in the classroom • Supervision of teachers • Supervision of students in field applications • Methods of teaching
Silber-Furman, Dorota Lecturer	Linguistically and culturally diverse populations • ELL/ESOL education and literacy • International education • Culturally relevant practices • Multicultural education
Simone, Kinsey Instructor	Predictors of student expectation fulfillment • Instrumental motivation and academic aspirations • Rural depopulation and outmigration • Societal stigmas towards and perceptions of obsessive-compulsive disorder • OCD • Qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including statistical software such as AM Software, R Software, IBM SPSS, and JASP • Program evaluation • Experimental designs • Factor analysis • Univariate and multivariate analyses of variance • Logistic regression • Linear regression and categorical data analysis
Smith-Andrews, Sandi JW Associate Professor	• Educational Technology • Online Learning • Remote Learning • Immersive Technologies • Internet Applications • Leadership/Shared Governance
Spears, Amber Associate Professor	Early/Foundational Literacy • Summer Literacy Programs • Community literacy
Suter, Leslie Professor	Integrated STEM education • Disciplinary computational thinking • Science education • Math education • Literacy integration
Wehrmann, Sara Lecturer	Culturally responsive leadership • Multicultural education • Social Justice

Welch, Callie Lecturer	Co-teaching and inclusion • IEPs • SPED Laws • Classroom management • Rural education • Trauma informed practices • Social-emotional learning • Behavior interventions • Teacher satisfaction and retention
Wendt, Jeremy Professor,	Educational technology • P-16 online learning and design • Virtual reality • social media • STEM education
Wendt, Stephanie Professor	Elementary education • Science education • Scientific literacy and 3-Dimensional learning • Learning theory
DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE	
Killman, Christy Professor,	Link between activity and brain development • Mentoring for success
Korgaokar, Ajit Associate Professor	Blood flow restriction training for activation • Recovery • Sports Performance
Mann, David Assistant Professor	Physical education pedagogy • Behavioral aspects of physical activity • Motor learning • Coaching • Wellness
Phillips, Michael Professor	Cancer wellness programs and their effects on quality of life and fatigue on cancer patients • Zone 2 Training and its effects on overall fitness • Church culture and health behaviors
Potter, Darek Assistant Professor	Rural populations • STEM education • Exercise science
Ray, Brittany Lecturer	Sleep - Does the amount of sleep affect/effect our cognitive and motor abilities. • Mental Health Disorders and their effect on motor abilities
Severt, Bobbi Assistant Professor	Athletic training education - advantages and disadvantages to a degree change • Concussions • Return to learn, rural vs urban athlete experiences • Women in athletic training - experiences and perspectives
Smith, John Instructor	Corporate financial takeover of college sports
Smith, Scott Associate Professor	Interscholastic Athletics • Interscholastic Athletic Administration • Sport Fundraising & Revenue Generation
Wynn, Beau Assistant Professor	Mobility and Flexibility • Physical Activity and Cognitive Functioning • Recovery Methods in Training • Physical Education • Fitness and Wellness, and Pedagogy
OAKLEY STEM CENTER	
Galindo, Carlos Coordinator	Multicultural marketing implementation in the U.S. • Advertising strategies targeting the Latino communities in the U.S. • Public relations "effects"

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

New Hires

Employee	Department	Title
Michael Hoane	Counseling & Psychology	Department Chair
Katherine Wood	Counseling & Psychology	Assistant Professor
Daniel Upchurch	Counseling & Psychology	Assistant Professor
Beth Anderson Walker	Counseling & Psychology	Lecturer
Luke Anderson	Curriculum & Instruction	Instructor
Lindsey Braisted	Curriculum & Instruction	Instructor
James Elliott Scott	Exercise Science	Lecturer
Kenneth (Beau) Wynn	Exercise Science	Assistant Professor
Carrie Harris	Office of Teacher Education	Licensure Admissions Coordinator
Connie DeRossette	Office of Teacher Education	Administrative Associate 3
Billy Sloan	STEM Center	Administrative Associate 2

EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING PHD

Director: Ashley Akenson

The ELPhD program had 8 Ph.D. graduates in 2023–2024, with 1 candidate in the final semester of dissertation research.

The majority of students maintain an A (3.5 or higher GPA equivalent out of 4.0) throughout the duration of the program (97% for current students; 99% since 2009). In 2023–2024, ELPhD students maintained an A average in the key courses listed in the table above (overall score across all courses: 3.75 for current students; 3.73 since 2009).

IDEA evaluations allow for comparison against similar courses on a national level. Scores indicate faculty and curricula are successful in achieving learning outcomes and objectives. Summer 2023 average score was 4.7, fall 2023 average was 4.8, and spring 2024 average was 4.8. The academic year average was 4.8.

During the 2023–2024 academic year, ELPhD students belonged to over 76 professional organizations and disseminated original work (either their own or part of an active research collaboration with faculty &/or peers) at 17 scholarly/professional conferences (5 regional presentations, 5 national presentations, 7 international presentations). These include conferences such as the *International Conference on Engineering, Science and Technology*, *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, *International Society for Scholarship of Teaching & Learning*, *National Forum to Advance Rural Education*, *Social Work in Sports Symposium*, *Food & Nutrition National Conference*, *Association of Family and Consumer Sciences*, *Southeastern STEM Education Research Conference*, *TN Mathematics Teachers Association*, *Tennessee Tech Creative Inquiry & Research Day*.

ELPhD students submitted 13 manuscripts (article, book chapter, or other scholarly work), 9 of which have been published.

In addition, Hannah S. Willis, an ELPhD student in the *Critical Discourse & Literacy Studies* concentration, won Tech's Research and Creative Inquiry Day graduate award for the College of Education. Gideon Eduah, an ELPhD candidate in the *Program Planning & Evaluation* concentration, who earned an AEA Graduate Education Diversity Internship (GEDI) spot last year—a first for the ELPhD program and the College of Education—successfully completed the program, with a forthcoming publication as co-author with his internship supervisor. In spring 2024, Dr. Krystal Kennedy, *Applied Behavior Analysis School-aged & Adult Populations* leader, carried out a grant to provide Inclusion & Behavior Support training in three cities in Ghana. Vandyke Adade-Yeboah, an ELPhD student in the *Applied Behavior Analysis School-aged & Adult Populations* concentration, went to speak about the need for support for individuals with disabilities in local high schools as well as assist with the training.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Counseling and Psychology

Department Chair: Michael Hoane

The Department of Counseling and Psychology continues to expand in its faculty, programs, and other successes. We received notification in the Spring 2024 semester that our MA School Counseling program and PhD Counselor Education and Supervision program are now CACREP accredited! The Clinical Mental Health Counseling MA program's accreditation has been reaffirmed as well.

Undergraduate research continues to be stellar, with significant numbers of faculty and students presenting their work at regional, national, and international conventions. One example is Drs. Jonathan Wiley, Agnes Luo, and Katherine Hermann-Turner, along with current Tennessee Tech Counseling and Supervision Ph.D. candidates Corrin Brown and Dessie Avila, delivering a roundtable presentation focused on rural clinical supervision at the 2023 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) National Conference in Denver, CO. ACES is the premier academic and professional organization dedicated to quality education and supervision of counselors in all work settings.



Six psychology students traveled with Dr. Nicole Henniger and Dr. Matthew J. Zagumny to the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention held in San Diego Spring 2024. The students presented the results of their studies on healthcare avoidance, perfectionism and academic burnout, adverse childhood experiences, belief in cross-partisan empathy, Opioid Use Disorder treatment attitudes, and climate policy messaging.

Drs. Luo, Wood, and Wiley have been working with the College of Education and Athletics Department to create the Student-Athlete Wellness Advising program. The mission of Student-Athlete Wellness Advising is to support the overall well-being of Tennessee Tech student-athletes. We also offer workshop-style presentations to teams on topics related to athletic performance. This involved building our team, establishing workflows and procedures, and having our services vetted by the university's attorneys. Dr. Julie Baker, Interim Associate Provost/COE Professor, Dr. Kyle Shanks, COE Assessment Director, and JT Thompson, a Ph.D. student in Program Planning and Evaluation, have been crucial in developing and launching this program.

The Student-Athlete Wellness Advising (SAWA) team provides educational services, programming, and resources focused on various dimensions of wellness, including



social, emotional, intellectual, physical, financial, occupational, spiritual, and environmental. The team offers walk-in wellness advising and educational programs to empower Tennessee Tech student-athletes to take an active and engaging approach toward their well-being, contributing to a healthy and purposeful

collegiate experience. We are happy to report that Fall Semester 2023 we launched our first live walk-in advising meetings and provided eight hours of available support to student-athletes.

Our student clubs and honors organizations were also very busy this year. Chi Sigma Iota and Psi Chi welcomed and initiated 12 new members and have observed large increases in membership and participation. Agnes Luo, Mark Loftis, and Jonathan Wiley hosted a Chi Sigma Iota-Tau Tau Upsilon welcome back party which many attended and 50+ students attended the Psychology Club's first meeting. Spring Semester 2024, Psi Chi inducted 9 students into the Psychology Honor Society. The Psych Club also introduced new fundraising efforts, including a Fright Night touring our very own Matthews-Daniel



basement and several activities also benefited the Jessica A. Kelley Scholarship, including a silent auction and our annual Duck Day event.

Curriculum and Instruction

Department Chair: Jeremy Wendt

The Department of Curriculum & Instruction had a very successful year based on several metrics relating to teaching, research, and service. Although it is nearly impossible to capture all the impactful projects, here are a few highlights:

This April, Dr. Kinsey Simone in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction coordinated, hosted, and participated in the inaugural Mad Topics symposium.



MAD TOPICS:
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) &
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Education

Professional Panel Discussion
Bell Hall Auditorium (Room 282)
April 8, 2024 | 6-7:30 p.m.

Dr. David T. Culkin, Dr. Kinsey Simone, Dr. Edward Beason, Dr. Amy Callender, Dr. Leann Taylor

Will be moderated by Mrs. McClane Oakley, TN Tech graduate student in Counseling & Psychology, IMPACT TTU President

HEAR ABOUT:

- **OCD & ADHD IN EDUCATION**
- **DISABILITY STIGMA & OCD/ADHD SUPPORT**
- **ADHD/OCD LIVED EXPERIENCES**

First 50 attendees to RSVP will receive an exclusive Mad Topics t-shirt at panel!

RSVP

SCAN ME!

HOSTED BY IMPACT TTU

** For more information, email Dr. Kinsey Simone at ksimone@tntech.edu **

Panelists included Leann Taylor and Amy Callender from C&I, Ed Beason from AEC, guest panelist David T. Culkin, and moderated by school counseling student, McClane Oakley. Dr. Culkin is an adult educator who co-authored OCD and Marriage with his wife. He also has a blog in Psychology Today where he writes about OCD and relationships. Culkin, Simone, and Taylor shared their life experiences with OCD and ADHD while Beason and Callender spoke to serving students with these conditions at the university and P-12 levels. Audience members were invited to meet the panelists after the talk. The panel was attended by over 80 people in person and another 40 attendees viewing live stream.

Faculty represented Tennessee Tech with research presentations and professional development at conferences across the US including Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Virginia, Hawaii, Texas, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Florida, as well as many other states. Internationally, faculty represented TTU in China, South Korea, and several other countries throughout the academic year.



Dr. Holly Anthony is the President of the Tennessee Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (TAMTE). TAMTE members work with stakeholders at all levels of public and private mathematics education, including community leaders such as the Tennessee STEM Education Leadership Council.

Dr. Leslie Suters is the President of the Tennessee Science Teachers Association (TSTA). TSTA is the largest representation of science educators in Tennessee. Established in 1975 as the Science Association of Tennessee, TSTA has continuously promoted the development and advancement of science education in Tennessee. All Officers, Board of Directors Representatives, and Liaisons are volunteers.



Dr. Amber Spears is the Chair of Literacy Association of Tennessee (LAT). The Literacy Association of Tennessee promotes a literate society by bringing together a network of people dedicated to sharing knowledge and information about literacy through programs and services.

Dr. Jennifer Meadows is the Vice-President of Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association (TMTA). The mission of the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association is to encourage the study of and improve the teaching of mathematics in all the schools and colleges of Tennessee.

Assistant Professor Krystal Kennedy and Ph.D. student Vandyck Adade-Yeboah recently completed a two-week trip to Ghana to study local concepts and provide professional development related to behavior management, disabilities, and online learning. Kennedy and Adade-Yeboah organized the trip after receiving a grant from The Association for Behavior Analysis International's Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis. Time was spent in Accra, Cape Coast, and Kumasi in



collaboration with the University of Ghana, Cape Coast University, Proprietor Diana Paintin's all-inclusive private school, and local international behavior analysts. Over 350 attendees completed the full-day trainings that involved immersive learning experiences. Attendees included international behavior analysts, parents, undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty and administration, teachers, school administrators, and K-12

students. The training was titled "Creating Supportive Environments for All Abilities," which included topics related to disabilities, behavior, universal design for learning practices, and classroom strategies for students with behavior and special needs. University faculty and students also received exposure to how Dr. Kennedy provides a universal design for learning for all students (including international and students with disabilities) and how online learning is conducted using best practices.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction hosted Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) this Spring semester. Tech's educator preparation program (EPP) recently joined CEEDAR. Together with other EPPs across TN, we are working to bolster the profession of teaching to ensure our candidates are prepared to teach on day one.



Queen Ogbomo, Stephanie Richards, and Perihan Fidan were awarded a faculty grant whose funds they used to bring a group of underrepresented high school students to tour the College of Education. The students used the

makerspace in the Jeffers Learning Resources Center with 3-D pens, virtual reality, and metal casting. They also toured the university and dined in the RUC.

Lisa Zagumny, Jeremy Wendt, Jane Baker, Lindsey Braisted, Rene Grimes, Dorota Silber-Furman, and Amber Spears visited the John Siegenthaler Center at Vanderbilt participating in the inaugural Lead in Literacy (LIL) Network co-sponsored by SCORE and Deans for Impact. LIL is intended to support cutting-edge, research-based early literacy instruction via partnerships between four educator preparation programs (Tennessee Tech, UTK, Lipscomb, and Belmont) and their primary partnership districts.



Dr. Kinsey Simone offered an inaugural service-learning class this semester. Her students conducted research on topics they are passionate about and related to service learning in the Cookeville community. This spring the students

presented their work to Cookeville City Mayor Laurin Wheaton and Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter. The research projects served as an impactful connection between the community and the university. The students have been invited to speak at City Council to further share their resources. Mayor Porter emailed to say thanks and share this statement, "I had a great time and those are some amazing students!!" Laurin Wheaton emailed to say, "It was our pleasure. Congrats again to Tyree, Mel, and Heather on such great projects." Pictured left to right are Jason Knight (IMPACT Cookeville), Laurin Wheaton (City Mayor), McClane Oakley, Kinsey Simone, Randy Porter (County Mayor), Heather Bertram, Tyree Cripps, and Mel Newman.

Exercise Science

Department Chair: Christy Killman

The 2023-2024 academic year was busy and productive for the department of Exercise Science.



The Department of Exercise Science's master's degree in physical education has been ranked #13 at UniversityHQ online. UniversityHQ strives to present an objective and unbiased view of colleges so that students can set reasonable expectations, discover outstanding schools, and embark on a path toward their best lives. They apply their methodology evenly and consistently so that students can trust that each ranking is meaningful.

Christy Killman, Chair of Exercise Science, was recently nominated to serve as chair-elect for the Future Professionals Council of NAHPL. This is a 3-year commitment to the national organization and should serve as a strong recruitment tool for graduate programs.



Exercise Science recently paid tribute to Tom Kirby, a distinguished alum who played basketball from 1967 to 1969, by bestowing him with a remarkable honor. In a touching gesture, the Kirby family undertook the task of refinishing the gym floor in Memorial Gymnasium and prominently featured Tom's



signature as part of the refurbishment. Additionally, the ceremony also celebrated Dr. Lebron Bell by dedicating Lebron

Bell Lane at the west end of the court, further commemorating his contributions. These gestures not only uphold the legacy of both individuals but also serve as a testament to their enduring impact on the TTU community and their alma mater.

Our students have been very active this year! Members of PEK and the Swim Club manned the eastside concession stands during a football game, helping to raise funds for the club/organization. Members of the kayaking class served as spotters while the Swim Club did an open water swim at Center Hill Lake this year. Our graduate assistants finished writing 271 cards for the It's Personal recruitment campaign.

Collaborations continue with our faculty. Bobbi Severt, Michael Phillips, and Janet Isbell had a manuscript accepted in the Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice. The title of the article is "Student perspectives on transition from bachelor's to master's degree for professional athletic trainers: Advantages and disadvantages."

8 faculty members and 4 students from the EXSC department travelled to Baton Rouge for the National Academy of Health & Physical Literacy Summit. NAHPL is a diverse



organization that seeks to advance the health and physical literacy in our society, especially K-12 schools, higher education, and dance and sport venues. They presented 6 different sessions related to exercise science, health, wellness, safety and physical literacy, set up a booth and hosted a social to recruit into our graduate programs.



The Department of Exercise Science updated the front doors of Memorial Gym with new window clings.

Groundwork was laid for additional courses to be added to the inventory as well as curricular updates for the 10 BS and 4 MA concentrations and extended collaborative efforts with Athletics and Human Ecology launched. The 2023-24 academic year was full of scholarship, collegiality and improvements to take us into the future.

CENTERS AND OFFICES

Child Development Lab

Director: Angie Smith

2023-2024 has been an exciting and eventful year for the CDL!

As a university-based laboratory program, one of our important goals is to train Tech students majoring in early childhood / early child special education, child and family studies, and other academic disciplines such as music therapy, nursing, and psychology. We strive to exhibit the highest standards and best practices in childcare and early education professions. The children of the CDL spend their days in a socially stimulating and language rich environment where learning occurs through play-based developmentally appropriate curriculum.



This year the Child Development Lab is working with the TECTA apprenticeship program to become a host to train new early childhood professionals entering the field. Early childhood employers and care providers grapple with a multitude of challenges that significantly impact their ability to deliver exceptional education and nurturing care to young children. One of the most recognizable challenges is the recruitment and retention of highly trained and dedicated staff members. This issue impacts the entire workforce, causing disruptions in program quality, continuity of care, and the overall well-being of children in care. We are honored to be chosen as one of the hosts for the Upper Cumberland area.



Also, for this year, Angie Smith, Director of the CDL, has been chosen to serve on the WAGE\$ TN Advisory Board for childcare providers in TN. WAGE\$ promotes a high-quality learning environment by reducing turnover, addressing the low pay of educators, and rewarding them for their higher education.

Amanda Hammock, lead teacher in the Willow Room (pre-k) at the CDL, was chosen to participate in the Lena Grow program through Tennessee Child Care Resource & Referral Program. Only 15 early childhood educators were chosen from the Upper Cumberland region for this inaugural program. As a veteran teacher, this program helped remind Ms. Amanda as to her WHY and reinforce what she is accomplishing in the preschool classroom. One component of the program was 5 weeks of LENA Grow, which enhances language and literacy in the early childhood classroom. The children wore vests with recording devices that count adult language throughout the day. This aided in noticing which children were getting enough adult talk and how to increase those children who needed more time.

Freedom School

Executive Director: Amber Spears

We are a six-week summer enrichment program with three hours of reading and two hours of high-energy enrichment activities per day. The Freedom School model works to foster love of learning, motivate children to read, and build students' beliefs that they can make a difference in the world around them.



The Elinor Ross CDF Freedom School is FREE for the children who attend. Eligible students—we call them scholars—are those currently in kindergarten through 5th grade. We create a fun learning environment in every classroom where the child-to-adult ratio is 10:1. Scholars

receive two meals and one snack per day, one field trip per week, and a variety of fun and educational afternoon activities. Our research-based curriculum uses culturally responsive children's books and instruction that aim to foster in children a sense of connection to the stories they read. Research has demonstrated that most Freedom Schools participants maintain or improve reading levels, and our



own research demonstrates that Freedom School scholars are more engaged with reading after the summer program. Freedom Schools successfully address summer reading loss and foster a love of reading in students who participate. Research indicates that in 2017–2018, more than 80% of Freedom School

scholars maintained or increased by an average of 10 months their

reading levels. Students reading below grade level before starting the program showed the greatest gains in their reading levels. In addition to offering

high-quality academic enrichment, the Ross CDF Freedom School endeavors to support children and families in the areas of parent and family involvement, civic engagement, social action, and health. The adults at Freedom Schools, our next generation of leaders, are college students who undergo extensive national training in research-based strategies proven to be effective at increasing achievement and school engagement.



Jeffers Learning Resources Center

Director: Jason Beach

Librarian: Genny Patterson

The 2023-24 year has been a noteworthy year for the Jeffers Learning Resources Center (JLRC). The JLRC serves the College of Education in providing students and faculty with a wide variety of technology and printed resources. We have maintained a patron count of 650+ per week, monitored by a door count system.

Over the year, the center hosted several large groups of prospective students, showcasing the College of Education's V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab, Creation Studio and Children's Library. The V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab and Creation Studio have continually been gaining traffic as faculty have incorporated the experiences into their courses.



The annual JLRC Open House brought in approximately 100 College of Education students. The students participated in the JLRC Bingo, where they visited each space within the center to learn more about the resources and services offered. With funds used from the Jeffers Davis Endowment, we were able to provide technology giveaways for students, including an iPad, Apple TV, and Bluetooth speakers.

The JLRC continues to host several local and surrounding county prospective high school groups. High school students and their parents have been able to learn all about the JLRC and what we have to offer, including the V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab experience, a walk through of the Creation Studio, and a tour of the Children's Library. The JLRC hosted nine different high school groups this year.

The V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab experience has been incorporated into the Foundation courses, providing students with their first immersive experience. Though this is part of their coursework, preservice teachers are encouraged to utilize the lab throughout their





time in the program. Preservice teachers may use the V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab at their leisure as the lab is open during JLRC hours. The V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab hosted 30+ visits from several College of Education courses.

The most notable change of the year has been the shift in spaces to allow our V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab and Creation Studio to grow. We are in the process of adding on additional stations to the V.I.S.I.O.N. Lab, allowing more students and visitors to experience the lab and less wait time for larger groups.



This has been an exciting year in the JLRC. We look forward to continuing to provide services to students and faculty and extending our services to alumni and local and surrounding county teachers.

Millard Oakley STEM Center

Director: Darek Potter

Over the 2023–2024 academic year, the Millard Oakley STEM Center has continued to support Tennessee Tech students and faculty, regional P–12 teachers, students, and families, and the regional community by offering high-quality STEM programs. Examples include providing professional development workshops to over 400 educators and engaging over 5,000 P–12 students through outreach STEM activities.



Our STEM Center outreach programs, such as Fab Fridays and Safari Saturdays, continue to see growth. As an example, one Fall 2023 Fab Friday at the Millard Oakley STEM Center targeted 3rd – 8th graders. The total attendance was 204 with 109 those being 3rd – 8th graders. The theme was Embark on an epic journey at STEM Quest: Level Up! Where young adventurers immersed themselves in the thrilling world of video games and discovered the magic of STEM. From designing their own virtual worlds to unraveling coding puzzles, this event ignited their imaginations and leveled up their knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



The STEM Center has hosted multiple events including the Southeastern STEM Education Research Conference, the Tennessee Middle School Math Contest, the 66th Annual Cumberland Plateau Regional Science & Engineering Fair, and many programs for educators and the community.

As part of our ongoing effort to establish Satellite Hubs for our Lending Library, we have been diligently delivering zSpace equipment to counties across the Upper Cumberland. Three of the fourteen devices have already reached their destinations, marking a significant milestone in our mission. zSpace, renowned for its augmented reality capabilities, is equipped with specialized software tailored for enhancing science education. We look forward to empowering schools with cutting-edge tools that inspire the next generation of STEM enthusiasts.



Office of Teacher Education

Director: Amy Brown

The Office of Teacher Education (OTE) serves College of Education students and licensed teachers as they pursue their education and career goals. OTE is dedicated to the development and training of qualified teaching professionals to inspire and educate future generations.

OTE offers a range of accredited programs for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing teaching degrees and alternative licensure pathways, plus additional endorsement opportunities for currently licensed educators. With 50+ PreK–12 school district partnerships across the state, OTE recommends licensure for the largest group of teacher candidates in the state of Tennessee.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, OTE recommended 321 candidates for traditional, alternative, and add-on endorsement pathways. An overwhelming 95.5% of 2023 traditional graduates passed the Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA), a Tennessee Department of Education requirement to achieve licensure.

Due to the teacher shortage, there is a significant increase in alternative licensure pathways. OTE is currently serving 96 post-baccalaureate and 95 actively enrolled job-embedded candidates.



Student Success Center

Interim Associate Dean & SSC Director: Matthew Smith

The Student Success Center (SSC) seeks to support students in the College of Education by providing them with the guidance and resources necessary for success in a safe, welcoming, supportive, and collaborative environment.



The advisement team in the SSC coordinates an outreach program called ENCORE (Empower, Network, Connect, Overcome, Reach, & Educate) which promotes the academic, civic, and professional development of College of Education students. This program strives to empower students to become independent and self-governing learners; help students build self-esteem and confidence in their ability to learn, communicate, and engage in curriculum; educate students on how to

identify and articulate individual academic goals and needs; implement an action plan to achieve academic goals and needs; and promote an understanding of individual strengths and areas for improvement through professional seminars focused on personal, academic, and career development.

In addition to the ENCORE program, the SSC maintains a robust student ambassador program. This resource provides support to the advisement team, recruitment specialist, and to both current and prospective students. For example, the student ambassadors coordinate the VIP campus visits for prospective students and families in the College of Education with 143 students and their families participating in 2023-24.



During the VIP campus visits, the SSC advisement team and recruitment specialist meet with prospective students and families to provide program information and answer questions. The student ambassadors also offer student perspectives about the university experience in addition to facilitating the VIP campus visits. Indeed, the SSC student ambassadors, advisement team, and recruitment specialist play an important role in recruiting new students to

Tech and to the College of Education with their awesome attitude and Tech Pride!

In addition to the VIP campus visits, the advisement team, recruitment specialist, and student ambassadors meet with prospective students and families throughout the year during campus events such as Preview Day, Spring Showcase, and the SOAR



orientation sessions to highlight programs, answer questions, to encourage enrollment at TTU and in the College of Education. In 2023-24, the SSC team had the opportunity to host 257 new freshmen and 101 transfer students during the SOAR sessions and 113 students for the Spring Showcase events.

The SSC would also like to highlight the 2+2 program which brings Tennessee Tech and the College of Education to our community college partners so students can remain close to home and have an opportunity to work within their local school systems. In 2023-24, the College of Education welcomed 44 juniors into the 2+2 program with 18 attending Pellissippi State, 15 attending the Roane State campuses, 7 attending Motlow State, and 4 attending Chattanooga State. The SSC team provides advisement sessions at the community college campuses to support all 2+2 students and continues to participate in recruitment events hosted by our community college partners and school district partners across the state.

The advisement team, recruitment specialist, and student ambassadors continue to work diligently to make the SSC a welcoming and supportive environment, and as a result, many students utilize the student lounge and SSC work areas throughout the school year. This has been essential to building good working relationships with our students and helping them feel welcome and supported!



Testing Center

Coordinator: Courtney Wynne

The College of Education Testing Center is designed to provide both computer-based and paper-based testing in a secure environment.

We are certified to provide the following exams:

- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test
- Counseling & Psychology Comprehensive Exams (CPCE)
- Graduate Records Exam (GRE)
- Praxis
- Pearson VUE standardized tests

The College of Education Testing Center consists of a test lab, a check-in/monitoring station, and a personal storage area.

- The lab has 21 candidate terminals. Each terminal is in a privacy desk made from sound-absorbing material.
- There is also an adjustable-height ADA compliant station available.
- The lab is monitored 24/7 via cameras as well as monitored in person during test set-up, exam periods, and clean up.

We strive to ensure that all tests are administered in an efficient, fair, and secure manner. We endeavor to provide a quality service that allows each candidate the opportunity to demonstrate his or her ability in the tested subject areas.



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (ELC)

2023 – 2024 Committee Members:

Ashley Akenson
Amy Brown
Elizabeth Burrows
Charles Craig

Michael Hoane
Christy Killman
Darek Potter
Kyle Shanks

Matt Smith
Jeremy Wendt

During this Academic Year, the council approved the following changes, additions or deletions

Course Additions

- CUED 2500, 3505, 4600, 4725
- ECED 3150
- ECSP 4874, 4900, 4925
- ELED 3142, 3155, 4875, 4900, 4925
- ESOL 6100, 6200
- FOED 2050, 3880
- READ 3320, 3325, 3330, 3335
- SEED 4850, 4900, 4925
- SPED 3015, 3025, 4155, 4875, 4900, 4925

Changes

- CUED 4800
- ELED 3152, 4142
- FOED 3010
- ECED 4240 (5240), 4260, 4261, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4500, 4240 (5240), 4290 (5290),
- ECSP 4500
- EDU 7430
- EXPW 200, 2002, 3001, 3006, 3011
- HEC 1030, 2020,
- Minors CSed, ECED/ECSP, Education, ELED, ESLP, FOED, Middle Grades, READ, SEED, SPED
- READ 3310, 3314

Deletions

Pre-PT Program

- EXPW 2200 Leadership in Exercise Science
- EXPW 3410 Motor Development

Name Changes

- Exceptional Learning Ph.D.: From Literacy to Critical Discourse and Literacy Studies
- Exercise Science: New Concentration title: Exercise Science

Also discussed during the year were the following items

Permission to grant transfer credit for specific educators that are progressing through content built by the State of TN as an express pathway to licensure for Computer Science Education.

External Review of the Exceptional Learning Ph.D.

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-5607, the department is required to conduct an annual review of EPP implementation of foundational literacy skills standards to be included in EPP annual reports as well as published in the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Report Card. To meet this requirement, EPPs will submit evidence demonstrating instruction is aligned with all applicable foundational literacy standards.

- February 23, 2024: The TN Department of Education released literacy review process requirements.
- May 23, 2024: Education Preparation Providers (EPPs) submit literacy review requirements to the department.
- July 22, 2024: The TN Department of Education will provide feedback to EPPs.

TEACHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE (TEC)

2023 – 2024 Committee Members:

Michael Allen	Shirley Laird	Kensea Skelton
Michelle Bowman	Meredith Lewis	Matthew Smith
Amy Brown	Landon Melton	Lane Ward
Edward Driggers	Lauren Michel	*Jeremy Wendt, Chair
Lisa Henry	Kayli Pardue	Bubba Winningham
Donnie Holman	Elizabeth Ramsey	Lisa Zagumny
Christy Killman	Alicia Senn	

During this Academic Year, the committee approved changes, additions or deletions to the following classes/programs:

Changes

- CUED 4800
- ESOL 6100, 6200
- ECED 4230(5240), 4240(5340), 4260, 4261, 4270, 4280, 4290(5290)
- ELED 3152, 4142
- FOED 3010
- READ 3310, 3314

Changes due to new State of TN Residency Requirements

- Early Childhood Education, Pre – K – 3, B.S.
- Early Childhood Education, Birth – K, B.S.
- Early Childhood Practitioner, B.S.
- Elementary Education, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, English as a Second Language Concentration, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, Generalist, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, Computer Science Education Concentration, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, Middle School English, 6 – 8 Concentration, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, Middle School Math, 6-8 Concentration, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, Middle School Science, 6-8 Concentration, B.S.
- Multidisciplinary Studies, Middle School Social Studies, 6-8 Concentration, B.S.
- Special Education Practitioner, B.S.
- Special Education, Comprehensive/Interventionist Concentration, B.S.
- Special Education Interventionist for Secondary Education Concentration, B.S.
- Secondary Education, English Concentration, B.S. ED.
- Secondary Education, French Concentration, B.S. ED.
- Secondary Education, German Concentration, B.S. ED.
- Secondary Education, Mathematics Concentration, B.S. ED.
- Secondary Education, Non-Licensure Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Spanish Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Speech Communication & Theatre Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Biology Concentration, B.S.ED.

- Secondary Education, Chemistry Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Earth Science Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Physics Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Economics Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Geography Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, History Concentration, B.S.ED.
- Secondary Education, Political Science Concentration, B.S.ED.

Additions

- CUED 3500, 3505, 4600, 4725
- ECED 3150, 4230(5240), 4290(5290), ECED 3150
- ECSP 4500, 4875, 4900, 4925
- ELED 3142, 3155, 4875, 4900, 4925
- EXPW 2720, 3330, 4840, 4883, 3660
- FOED 2050, 3860, 3880, READ 3320, 3325, 3330, 3335
- SEED 4850, 4900, 4925
- SPED 3015, 3025, 4155, 4875, 4900, 4925

Deletions

- EXPW 2150, 2200
- READ 3314

Concentration Name Changes

- Early Childhood/Special Education, Pre – K to PreK – 3
- Early Childhood Education, Integrated Birth – K to Birth – K

Also discussed during the year were the following items:

- Granting transfer credits for a specific set of educators that are progressing through content built by State of TN as an express pathway to licensure for Computer Science Education.
- Undergraduate program residency is moving from 1 year to 1 semester of residency.
- Leveraging the TEC meetings to assist in accreditation efforts by introducing topics for discussion at each meeting.
- CAEP virtual visit is in late March and the report is due in June.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your unwavering dedication and hard work. Through our collective efforts, we have achieved remarkable success in putting students first.

Your commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and student support makes a difference in students' lives. Whether it was adapting to new teaching methods, providing mentorship and guidance, or going above and beyond in your roles, your contributions have not gone unnoticed.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together this year. Your hard work, creativity, and dedication have made it possible for us to uphold the College of Education's mission of providing learner centered academic experiences for our students to achieve their highest potential as life-long learners, professionals, and citizens.

As we look forward to the opportunities that the next academic year will bring, let us continue to prioritize students and strive for excellence in all that we do.

Once again, thank you for your exceptional contributions to Tech and the College of Education. Your efforts are truly appreciated and valued.

Lisa Z.

Dean, College of Education