Office of the Provost

TENNESSEE TECH

Dear Campus Community,

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Tennessee Tech. Throughout the 2026–2027 academic year, I will share monthly updates with our campus community about the work taking place across Academic Affairs.

Since beginning my role on July 1, it did not take long to recognize that kindness, compassion and genuine care for others are embedded within the campus community. During my first weeks on campus, I intentionally spent the day visiting each academic college, as well as the library, to learn more about our people, programs and aspirations. Across every visit, one theme emerged consistently—the extraordinary passion, dedication and commitment our faculty and staff have for our students.

What has impressed me most is the sincere desire to help students succeed, grow and thrive both personally and professionally. That level of commitment cannot be manufactured; it is woven into the fabric of this institution. Every conversation reinforced that our faculty and staff view student success not simply as a responsibility, but as a deep desire to see the students excel. It is both inspiring and humbling to witness such genuine devotion to our students.

I have also greatly enjoyed meeting with leadership teams, faculty, staff and students throughout the university. Even before arriving at Tennessee Tech, I began working closely with our deans on a thoughtful process to better define and distinguish each of our colleges. This work has been influenced by Simon Sinek's "Start with Why," which challenges organizations to clearly understand and communicate the purpose behind what they do. We have also begun reading and discussing Jim Collins' "Good to Great," which provides valuable insights into how organizations achieve sustained excellence.

I believe each college possesses a unique identity, purpose and passion. Together, we are working to uncover and articulate the authentic message that defines each college but why its faculty and staff are so deeply committed to educating and transforming students. When communicated authentically, these stories become extremely impactful storylines. They reflect our values, demonstrate the experiences students can expect and illustrate what truly distinguishes a Tennessee Tech education.

As we continue this work, my hope is to uncover what distinguishes us and communicate that authentic message regarding our colleges. By clearly communicating who we are, why we exist and the impact we have on our students and the communities we serve, we will continue to elevate Tennessee Tech's reputation and attract talented students, faculty, staff and partners who share our vision.

Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me during my first weeks on campus. I am honored to join this remarkable community and look forward to working alongside each of you as we build on Tennessee Tech's strong foundation and shape an even brighter future together.



Wings Up!



Mickey Latour, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Office of the Provost
academicaffairs@tntech.edu
931-372-3224