

# STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to campus! From all of us here in the division of Student Affairs, we are thrilled to have everyone back for another exciting academic year together. Whether you're staff, returning students or joining our community for the first time, know that our dedicated team is here to support the campus community. We are committed to providing a well-rounded and fulfilling college experience. Here's to a year filled with growth, inspiration, and endless possibilities.

## RECAPPING COLLEGE TOWN KICKOFF

Cookeville and Tennessee Tech University recently united to create a spectacular event that left attendees buzzing with excitement. The College Town Kickoff event, held on Saturday, August 19 was an unforgettable day filled with entertainment, community engagement, and a true celebration of togetherness.



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Led by the division of Student Affairs, with the support of the Office of the President, College Town Kickoff was a collaborative effort between the university and officials with the city of Cookeville. The event aimed to foster connections between students, residents, and the community. It not only welcomed new and returning students to the academic year but also offered a platform for local businesses to shine and for students to learn about ways to get involved in the community. With a variety of engaging events and attractions, College Town Kickoff provided a snapshot of the vibrant life that the university and the town of Cookeville have to offer.

From the moment the event kicked off at 3:00pm, the vibrant energy of Downtown Cookeville was unmistakable. Students, faculty, local residents, and visitors from all around gathered to enjoy the festivities.

The central attraction of the event was the Dogwood Performance Pavilion, where live music set the tone for an evening of fun and entertainment. From the opening performance by the Tennessee Tech University Band, which welcomed the crowd with resounding enthusiasm, to the headlining act by Sean Kingston later in the evening, the stage was constantly providing attendees enjoyment.

Throughout the event, the town came alive with a myriad of activities that catered to various interests. The West Broad and Cedar Avenue area provided a shopper's paradise, featuring a Ferris wheel, zip-line, airbrush hats, food trucks, and an array of other community booths. As the sun set on the event, and the live music faded into the night, attendees were left with a spectacular fireworks show to end the evening.

“For the first time ever, this day could not have been more perfect. Over 2,500 people came out and a good time was had by all,” stated Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Cynthia Polk-Johnson. Safe to say, College Town Kickoff was a resounding success. Beyond the entertainment, College Town Kickoff achieved its broader mission. It not only showcased the vibrant spirit of the university but also highlighted the invaluable role that a strong town-gown relationship plays in fostering a thriving community. It really shows what makes the city of Cookeville and Tennessee Tech so special.

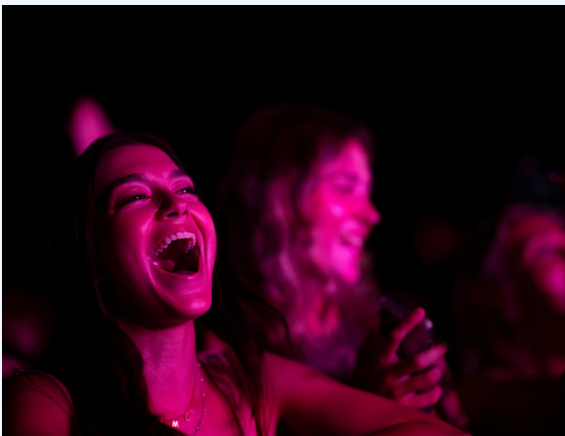
Overall, the event showcased the university's dedication to engaging both students and the community, all while bolstering local businesses. It marked a fantastic beginning to the academic year at Tennessee Tech University.











Thank you to everyone that was involved with College Town Kickoff!



# HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE BLOCK PARTIES

The Housing and Residential Life Block Party on August 14th was a spectacular affair. From 8 PM to 10:30pm, the campus came alive. Attendees with music and a host of activities. Games added an extra layer of excitement, with friendly competitions and challenges bringing students closer together.

Of course, no Block Party is complete without free food. Popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones were devoured with enthusiasm, providing a sweet contrast to the savory pizza. Speaking of free, the coveted Free Block Party t-shirts were distributed, each one a badge of honor for the lucky first 400 students in attendance.



# RECREATION AND FITNESS HOST WEEK OF WELCOME EVENTS

This year's Week of Welcome kicked off with a Game Night at the Rec. August 10th, Students spent the evening playing board games with new friends, participating in volleyball matches, rock-climbing, and so much more. The event provided both new and returning students with the chance to better familiarize themselves with the Marc L. Burnett Student Recreation and Fitness Center and all that it has to offer.

The Office of Recreation and Fitness kept the fun going throughout the week, offering activities like Yoga at the Burn. In collaboration with ASPIRES, a morning yoga session was held on August 15th in one of the Fitness Center's many spacious studios. The relaxing experience introduced attendees to what a Group Fitness Class might look like. These fun and engaging events were a great way to remind students of all the resources available through Recreation and Fitness.



# GRAND OPENING OF RENOVATED INTERCULTURAL SPACES

On August 22, the Division of Student Affairs celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated Leona Lusk Officer Black Cultural Center and the adjacent Intercultural Lounge and Meeting Room 246. These transformative renovations, situated along the second-floor hallway of the Roaden University Center, mark a significant step forward in promoting diversity, inclusivity, and cross-cultural exchange on campus.

The Grand Opening Ceremony drew a diverse crowd, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the Cookeville community. The event reflected Tennessee Tech's steadfast commitment to fostering an environment where students from all backgrounds can thrive and feel welcomed. The renovation of the Leona Lusk Officer Black Cultural Center pays homage to the rich history and contributions of past persons of color while also providing a contemporary space for intergroup dialogue and engagement.

Adjacent to the Leona Lusk Office Black Cultural Center, the Intercultural Lounge is a welcoming space designed to facilitate collaboration, meaningful conversations and build cross-cultural relationships. It embodies Tennessee Tech's commitment to creating spaces where students can feel a sense of belonging. Meeting Room 246, just steps away, has been transformed into a versatile and technology-equipped learning environment. It provides a platform for students to engage in leadership training, workshops, and activities.

The ceremony featured speeches by university leaders, including Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Cynthia Polk-Johnson, Director of Student Engagement & Intercultural Affairs Charria Campbell, Chief Diversity Officer Robert Owens, and President Philip Oldham. They all emphasized the significance of these renovated spaces and how the students were key to making it possible. The event was not just a celebration of beautifully renovated spaces but also a reaffirmation of Tennessee Tech's dedication to fostering a campus where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered.





# CLUB GOLDEN EAGLE RETURNS

The semester started off with a bang as students enjoyed an unforgettable evening of music, games, prizes, and mouthwatering free food on August 13 at the 2nd Annual Club Golden Eagle event. Whether your taste leaned towards dance beats or the cozy atmosphere of a coffee house, competitive tabletop games or friendly table tennis matches, this event had something for everyone.

Old friendships were rekindled, and new ones were formed as attendees explored every nook and cranny of the Roaden University Center, discovering a wealth of activities hosted by the Student Orientation Assistants, the Residence Hall Association, Fraternity & Sorority Life, the eSports Club, the SOLO Events Committee, and other campus organizations.

The event not only served as a fantastic introduction to the semester but also underscored Tennessee Tech University's commitment to fostering a vibrant campus community.



# GOLDEN EAGLE T-SHIRT TRADE-IN

Centennial Plaza played host to a lively Golden Eagle spirit rally with a unique twist. Hosted by Tennessee Tech Athletics, it was a delightful gathering that took place on Monday of Week of Welcome Week. One of the unique highlights of the event was the opportunity for participants to exchange their old high school or university t-shirts for brand-new Tennessee Tech t-shirts. The exchange allowed attendees to freshen up their wardrobe and get in the school spirit.

The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm as individuals proudly sported their Tennessee Tech colors and gear. It really captured the essence of school pride for all who attended.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

There is always something exciting going on at Tennessee Tech! Check out all the great upcoming events hosted by the Division of Student Affairs and Tennessee Tech, and contact us for more information!

- **Hoedown Throw-down**, is scheduled for October 12 starting at 7pm on Centennial Plaza. The event will be organized by Student Engagement.
- **Trick-or-Treat/ Scary Movie Night**, on October 24 beginning at 6pm, will be put on by the SOLO Events Committee and TTU Miracle. More information to come.
- **Careers in Student Affairs Month (CSAM)**, will take place throughout October, hosted by several Student Affairs offices. Events will occur in the Roaden University Center. Details will be made available on the Student Affairs Instagram account.
- **Homecoming Week**, will be October 30 to November 4, a campus wide initiative. Learn more about events on the Student Engagement website.



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