

STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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A CELEBRATION OF A WEEK OF SERVICE

January was defined by hands-on service and tangible impact at Tennessee Tech University, as students dedicated their time and energy to initiatives designed to directly support their peers and the broader community.

The month began with a renewed focus on food security through the campus wide Food Pantry Drive. Student organizations, academic departments and individual volunteers collected hygiene items and essential goods to help restock the university's food pantry. Donation boxes placed across campus quickly filled as the Golden Eagle community responded with generosity. The effort not only addressed an immediate need but also opened important conversations about supporting classmates beyond the classroom.



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Midway through the month, service continued with the Spring Clothing Giveaway. The event transformed its space into a welcoming setup where students and local community members could browse racks of gently used clothing at no cost. Volunteers assisted with sorting sizes, organizing displays and helping attendees find what they needed. The giveaway emphasized both dignity and sustainability, giving donated items a second life while reducing financial barriers for those who needed extra support.

The impact of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Silent March, organized by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s Omicron Phi Chapter at Tennessee Tech University, carried well beyond the day of the event and into January's continued service efforts. Students, faculty, and staff gathered at the President's Lawn in a shared moment of reflection before beginning the silent walk across campus. United in purpose, participants honored Dr. King's legacy not only through remembrance, but through action.

Together, January's initiatives demonstrated that service at Tech is not confined to a single day or event. From collecting pantry donations to carefully organizing clothing racks, students showed that consistent, practical action can make a meaningful difference. The month reflected a campus culture rooted in compassion, collaboration and a shared responsibility to care for one another.



BEARS TO BUILD

Students brought their own bears to life at February's Bears to Build event, hosted by the SOLO Events Committee and Student Engagement. Now a favorite tradition, the event gives students a fun way to create custom plush toys while taking a break from the winter blues. Spots filled quickly through Eagle Engage, and students eagerly lined the halls of the RUC to join in.

With a variety of animals to choose from, the room was full of laughter, creativity, and a little friendly competition over the cutest design. Stuffing, fluffing, and personalizing their plush friends, students enjoyed a hands-on experience that brightened the day and sparked smiles all around.



WINGS UP WEDNESDAYS ON THE WESTSIDE

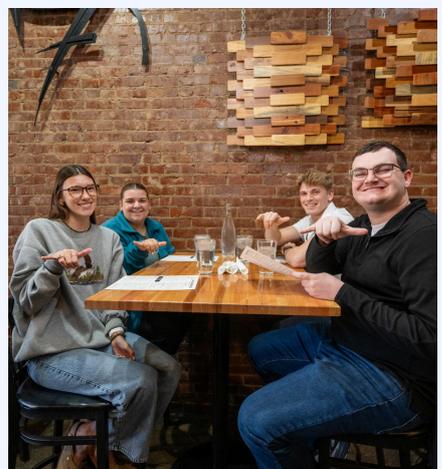
Wings Up Wednesdays on the Westside has become a favorite midweek tradition for the Golden Eagle community. This ongoing collaboration between Tennessee Tech Student Affairs and local Cookeville businesses offers a fun and easy way for students, faculty, and staff to connect with the community while enjoying exclusive perks, all while taking a break from the busy week. By encouraging engagement beyond campus, the event helps foster a sense of community and supports the local economy at the same time.

Each Wednesday evening, members of the Tech community head to the Westside to explore special discounts and promotions offered by participating businesses along Broad, Cedar, and 1st Streets. What started as a simple idea to get students out and about has grown into a weekly tradition that allows everyone to discover new restaurants, support local shops, and enjoy hidden gems throughout downtown Cookeville. From cozy cafés to popular eateries and unique boutiques, there is always something new to experience.

Wings Up Wednesdays offers something for everyone. Whether you are grabbing dinner with friends, picking up a sweet treat, shopping local, or simply exploring the Westside, there are many ways to enjoy your evening. Participating is simple. Present your Tech ID at any participating location to receive deals and perks exclusive to the Golden Eagle community.

Transportation makes getting to the Westside convenient and stress-free. A free shuttle runs from campus every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., giving students, faculty, and staff a safe and reliable way to travel without worrying about parking or driving. The shuttle has become a popular way to ensure everyone can join in the fun.

As Wings Up Wednesdays continue to grow, the goal remains the same. The event strengthens the connection between Tennessee Tech and the Cookeville community while offering students, faculty, and staff a fun, affordable, and memorable way to spend their Wednesday evenings. With a variety of businesses, restaurants, and experiences waiting to be explored, there is no better time to join in. Grab your friends, bring your Tech ID, and head to the Westside because you never know what new favorite spot you might discover.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Agness Sheilla Aneno is making a meaningful impact at Tennessee Tech University as a doctoral student in the Exceptional Learning PhD program, concentrating in Applied Behavior Analysis. Originally from Uganda, she earned her master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Tech in May 2025 and began her PhD later that month. In addition to her studies, Agness serves as a Graduate Assistant in the College of Education and Human Sciences and as a Graduate Research Assistant with Honors, continuing to grow as a scholar and leader through mentorship and research.

Beyond the classroom, Agness is deeply engaged in campus life. As President of the African Student Union, she has led collaborative initiatives, secured funding for major events and student travel, and expanded service opportunities for members. She also serves as a Global Ambassador and Tennessee Tech University Ambassador and is active in the ABA Club, Habitat for Humanity, and the International Student Union, supporting international and neurodivergent students in building community and accessing resources.

A 2025–2026 MAD Scholar, Agness has presented research nationally and internationally, authored three academic journal publications, and founded the VOLTAA Project to connect students with service opportunities through the Tech Food Pantry. After graduation, she plans to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, expand ABA services in Uganda, and continue advocating for equity, inclusion, and student success.



GET MOVING: NEW CLASSES AT THE BURN

Campus Rec has expanded its group fitness offerings, bringing fresh options for every schedule, fitness level, and interest. Whether you're looking to boost strength, improve endurance, or find a low-impact workout, there's something for everyone.



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Make a splash with Aqua Fit, a low-impact, high-energy workout that uses the natural resistance of water to improve strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health. For a unique full-body challenge, try Aqua Spin, which combines cycling with water resistance to build endurance, core stability, and overall strength while keeping the impact on your joints minimal.

Take a midday break with Midday Mobility, a 30-minute session focused on dynamic stretches and controlled movements to loosen tight muscles, improve joint health, and leave you feeling refreshed. For high-intensity options, Spin Surge delivers challenging cycling intervals with sprints, climbs, and endurance work set to motivating music.

Rev Up offers a fast-paced 30-minute HIIT session that combines cardio bursts and strength intervals, while Turbo Fit pushes your limits with total-body strength and endurance training.

From refreshing pool workouts to heart-pumping HIIT and strength classes, Campus Rec has a class to energize every part of your day. Check the schedule, try something new, and find your favorite workout!



UNIVERSITY HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE SPOTLIGHT

University Housing and Residential Life (UHRL) is excited to spotlight Dawn Crabtree. Dawn is the full-time Tennessee Tech Off-Campus Housing Coordinator.

Dawn first joined the UHRL team in May 2023 as a consultant, helping students who chose not to live in the residence halls after their freshman year find safe and affordable Off-Campus housing. Over the past 2 plus years, the program has grown significantly, with more students relying on her assistance to find off campus housing.

Because of this, the University saw fit to expand her role. Residential Halls at Tennessee Tech currently house 2,285 of the university's more than 10,000 enrolled students, with Tech Village providing housing for an additional 300+ students.



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Freshmen make up the majority of those living in the halls, reflecting the university's tradition of welcoming new students into on-campus housing. For the Fall 2025 semester, Residential Halls reached an impressive 96% capacity, underscoring the strong demand for on-campus living options.

As Off-Campus Housing Coordinator, Dawn connects students with more than 30 rental agencies in the Cookeville area, helping them find housing options that fit their budgets and preferences. Her work not only streamlines the process by offering a hassle-free and efficient way to secure Off-Campus housing but also provides parents with peace of mind knowing their students had someone knowledgeable to work with. All students who work with Dawn must first meet the university's housing eligibility requirements, ensuring a smooth and supportive transition from on-campus to Off-Campus living.

There are some events that will be hosted after Spring Break. Each quad will host a Lease Talk on March 26th. These talks educate parents and students about leases and things to consider when leasing an Off-Campus apartment. There will also be a housing fair on April 16th. Rental agencies that work with Dawn will come together to show off their properties and agencies.

For more information, or to work with Dawn, please contact her at offcampushousing@tnitech.edu.

PINKERTON QUAD
6PM
NEW HALL NORTH PERCH

CAPITAL QUAD
7:30PM
COOPER HALL 102

LEASE TALKS
MARCH 26, 2026

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT LEASE AGREEMENTS AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING!

offcampushousing@tnitech.edu

SAVE THE DATE
HOUSING FAIR 2026

CONNECT WITH RENTAL AGENCIES AROUND COOKEVILLE. THEY WILL HAVE INFORMATION ON THEIR AGENCIES ALONG WITH A LIST OF THEIR PROPERTIES.

04/16/2026
11AM TO 2PM

SIGN UP TODAY

offcampushousing@tnitech.edu

RUC 282 931-372-3405

ADVANCING WELLNESS AND SAFETY ON CAMPUS WITH CHASCO

Leigh Ann Ray of Health Services, along with Dr. Christina Mick of the Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness, attended the February meeting of the Coalition for Healthy and Safe Campus Communities (CHASCO) last Friday, joined by Adrienne Lees from CAPS. CHASCO supports public universities by providing resources, funding, assessment tools, professional development, and research to help create healthy and safe campus environments.



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The meeting provided an opportunity for Tennessee Tech representatives to connect with colleagues from other institutions, share best practices, and explore new strategies for promoting wellness and safety on campus. Staff members gained valuable insights into programs and initiatives that can further enhance student support and campus well-being.

Images from the meeting capture moments from the event and will be featured in the March newsletter, highlighting Tech's ongoing commitment to creating a safe and healthy campus community.

CAMPUS RECREATION WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Campus Recreation welcomed three new employees on January 5.

Kyle Dickerson joins the team as Assistant Director of Operations and Aquatics. A certified pool operator, lifeguard, and CPR/AED responder, he has already made meaningful contributions to enhancing the quality and efficiency of our pool operations.

Tristica Coleman stepped into the role of Coordinator of Fitness and Wellness, bringing extensive experience supporting individuals at every stage of their fitness journey. She has hit the ground running by launching three new fitness classes, with three more set to begin soon. Her efforts are already making a noticeable impact on the student and member experience.

Sandy Morris is the welcoming voice of Campus Recreation's Membership Office. With 10 years of experience, she brings a strong foundation to her role. A motivated, service-oriented professional, Sandy genuinely enjoys working with both students and staff.

We are thrilled to have each of them as part of the Campus Recreation team.

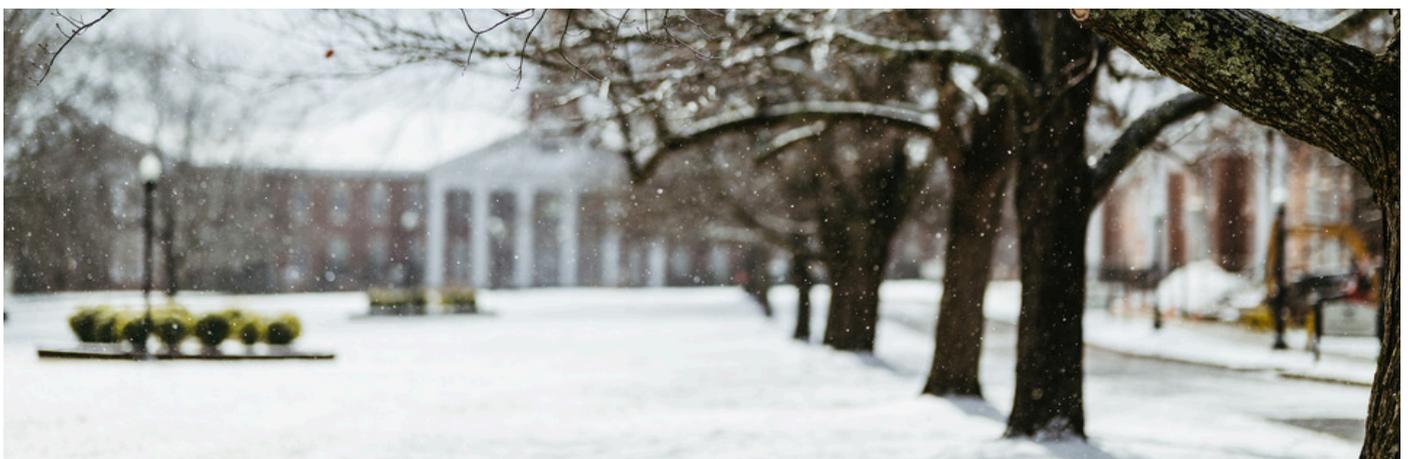


FALL INTRAMURALS A HUGE SUCCESS AT TENNESSEE TECH

This past fall, Intramurals at Tennessee Tech had a busy and exciting season. Students participated in 13 sports and activities, totaling 6,981 individual participations across 1,270 games. The variety of options and competitive spirit made the season a memorable one for everyone involved.

Several sports drew especially strong interest. Pickleball led the way with 85 teams, closely followed by Flag Football with 84 teams. Softball brought in 44 teams, while the 3v3 Basketball tournament and Indoor Soccer each welcomed 39 teams. These popular events gave students a chance to stay active, meet new friends, and enjoy some friendly competition.

Looking ahead, Intramurals is set to offer 14 sports in the Spring Semester, providing even more opportunities for students to get involved, stay fit, and enjoy campus life. With such strong participation in the fall, the upcoming semester promises to be just as energetic and engaging.



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